

South-eastern view of the new Plassey monument

INDIAN RECORDS SERIES

FORT WILLIAM—INDIA HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE

AND OTHER CONTEMPORARY PAPERS
RELATING THERETO

(PUBLIC SERIES)

VOL. II: 1757-1759

EDITED BY

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GENERAL EDITOR'S PREFACE

In my preface to Volume XVII published last year, while regretting the delay in the publication of the volumes in the Fort William India House Correspondence Series, I assured that every effort would be made to bring out the remaining volumes in quick succession. The publication of the present volume in the year following the publication of the last is a tangible proof of our earnestness in this direction. I hope that we shall be able to maintain this progress in regard to the remaining volumes.

I take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to the Commonwealth Relations Office, London, the Government of West Bengal, the Trustees of the Victoria Memorial Hall, Calcutta, and the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad for allowing us to publish certain portraits and paintings in their possession; to the Editor, *Bengal: Past and Present*, Calcutta, for permitting us to use Plaisted's "Map of the Kingdom of Bengal and part of the Provinces of Orixia and Bahar", published in the Journal in 1909; and to the Director General of Archaeology, Government of India, and his staff for furnishing us with photographic copies of the portraits and paintings included in this volume. I am also thankful to those members of the staff of this Department who have helped me in preparing the volume and in seeing it through the press, and to Sree Saraswaty Press Ltd., Calcutta, for their co-operation and good workmanship.

B. A. SALETORÉ
*Director of Archives,
Government of India.*

*National Archives of India,
New Delhi,
2 August 1956.*

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CHAIRMEN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY*

1757-59

<i>Year</i>			<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Deputy Chairman</i>
1757	...	...	Payne, John	Sullivan, Laurence
1758	...	...	Sullivan, Laurence	Drake, Roger
1759	...	...	Godfrey, Peter	Boyd, John

DIRECTORS OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY

1757-59

Baron, Christopher	...	1759, 1761-64, 1766-67.
Barrington, Fitzwilliam	...	1759, 1761-62, 1765-67.
Barwell, William	...	1753-59, 1761-64, 1766.
Bosanquet, Jacob	...	1759.
Boulton, Henry Crabb	...	1753-61, 1763-65, 1767-70, 1772-73.
Boyd, John	...	1753-61, 1763-64.
Browne, John	...	1757-60, 1762-63.
Burrow, Christopher	...	1735-58, 1760-61.
Chambers, Charles	...	1755-57, 1763-66, 1768.
Creed, James	...	1749, 1755-58, 1761.
Cutts, Charles	...	1749-54, 1758-61, 1763-66.
Dorrien, John	...	1755-58, 1760-63.
Drake, Roger	...	1738-58.
Dudley, George	...	1757-60, 1762, 1764-67, 1770-71.
Gildart, Richard	...	1759.
Godfrey, Peter	...	1710-17, 1734-57, 1759-60.
Gough, Charles	...	1749-57, 1759-62.
Hadley, Henry	...	1757-60, 1762-65.
Harrison, John	...	1758-61, 1763-66, 1768-71, 1773-77, 1779-82.
Harrison, Samuel	...	1759, 1761-62.
Impey, Michael	...	1736-57.
Jones, Robert	...	1754-57, 1765-68.
Manship, John	...	1755-58, 1762-65, 1767, 1769-77, 1779-82, 1784-87, 1789-92, 1794-97, 1799-1802, 1804-07, 1809.
Newnham, Nathaniel Jr.	...	1738-58.

* The particulars given in the lists are based on Charles C. Prinsep's *Records of Services of the Honourable East India Company's Civil Servants in the Madras Presidency, 1741-1858* (London, 1885); the *Alphabetical List of Directors of the East India Company from 1758 to 1858*, compiled by C. H. and D. Philips and published in the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, October 1941; and the *List of The Heads of Administrations in India and of The India Office in England* (Imperial Record Department, 1939).

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Phipps, Thomas	...	1742-58.
Pigou, Frederick	...	1758-61, 1763-66, 1768-71, 1773-77.
Plant, Henry	...	1745-58.
Raymond, John	...	1757-60.
Raymond, Jones	...	1734-58.
Rooke, Giles	...	1758-61, 1763-64.
Rous, Thomas	...	1745-53, 1755, 1757-58, 1760-62, 1764-67, 1770-71.
Saunders, Thomas	...	1758, 1765-67.
Savage, Henry	...	1755-58, 1760-62, 1764-67, 1770-77, 1779-82.
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Waters, Thomas	...	1759-62.
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1757-59

Drake, Roger	...	8 August 1752- 22 June 1758.	Replaced by Watts accord- ing to the Court's letter of 11 November 1757, by which some members of the Council were to be Governors by turns for four months each.
Watts, William	...	22 June 1758- 26 June 1758.	Resigned in favour of Clive.
Clive, Colonel Robert	...	27 June 1758- 23 January 1760.	

MEMBERS OF BOARD, FORT WILLIAM, BENGAL*

1757-59

Amyatt, Peter	...	...	...	1756-58.
Becher, Richard	...	...	...	1751-60, 1766-71.
Boddam, Thomas	...	...	...	1756-59.

* The years mentioned against the names of the members of the Board, Fort William, do not necessarily indicate the entire terms of their membership but merely show that they were members during the period stated as verified from the Correspondence.

Clive, Colonel Robert	...	...	...	1757-60,	1765-67.
Cooke, John	...	...	...	1759.	
Collet, Mathew	...	...	...	1753-58.	
Drake, Roger Jr.	...	...	...	1748-58.	
Frankland, William	...	...	...	1752-59.	
Holwell, John Zephaniah	...	...	...	1752-60.	
Killpatrick, Major James	...	...	...	1756-57.	
Mackett, William	...	...	...	1752-59.	
McGwire, William	...	...	...	1759-60.	
Manningham, Charles	...	...	...	1750-59.	
Pearkes, Paul Richard	...	...	...	1751-52,	1754-58.
Playdell, C. S.	...	...	...	1758-59.	
Sumner, W. B.	...	...	...	1759-60.	
Watts, William	...	...	...	1749-52,	1756-58

GOVERNORS OF THE PRESIDENCY OF FORT
ST. GEORGE

1757-59

Pigot, George

(later Baron Pigot of Patshull) ... 14 January 1755—14 November 1763

GOVERNORS OF THE PRESIDENCY OF BOMBAY

1757-59

Bourchier, Richard

... 17 November 1750—28 February 1760

INTRODUCTION

THE records published in this volume comprise letters that passed between the Court of Directors and the Secret Committee at London on the one hand, and the Council and the Select Committee at Fort William and individual members of these bodies on the other, during the years 1757 to 1759. There are often long and irregular intervals in the issue of these letters. Altogether 74 letters have been included in this volume, 17 of which emanated from London and the rest from Bengal. The subject matter of the principal letters to and from the Court of Directors is usually dealt with under the following heads: (1) shipping; (2) goods from Europe or from one part of India to another; (3) investments; (4) trade of India and transactions with the country governments; (5) fortifications, buildings and revenues; (6) covenanted and military servants; (7) accounts; and (8) matters concerning the Company's charter. The letters throw light on almost all the important aspects of the Company's affairs in Bengal and also touch upon the changing politics of the country at a very critical period of her history.

In going through these letters one is impressed by the candid way in which the correspondence was carried on. The tone of the letters is business-like and practical. With rare exceptions, the officers of the Company are mediocre in talent, poor in attainments and unscrupulous in character. Most of them, not excluding a man like Drake, are incapable of thinking and expressing clearly. Some of the letters are specimens of clumsy presentation and confused thinking. Clive's letters are generally marked by felicity of language, clarity of ideas, and a coherent and convincing way of presenting his views, and they make a delightful reading. We shall first survey the political and diplomatic events of the period before taking up the other aspects of the Company's activities.

SURVEY OF POLITICAL EVENTS, 1757-1759

Capture of Calcutta by the Nawab

Sirajud-Daulah seized the English factory at Cossimbazar on 3 June 1756, and that at Calcutta on the 20th. The Nawab resorted to this action because the English, in contravention of the established custom of the country, had raised fortifications in Calcutta, abused free-trade *dastaks*, and persisted in giving protection to the Nawab's rebellious subjects. On the fall of Calcutta, the English merchants retired to Falta on the Hooghly, arriving there on 26 June 1756, and the Dutch supplied them with provisions and other necessary stores from their small settlement in the neighbourhood. They stayed there for six months without any harm being done to them, or even any notice being taken of them, by the Nawab's Government, and this shows that the Nawab did not want to expel them from his country. In fact, on 8 September 1756, two months after they had left Calcutta, Raja Manik Chand, the Nawab's Governor of Calcutta, ordered a *bazar* to be opened at Falta for

the sale of provisions to the English. What the Nawab wanted was that the English should confine their attention only to trade. But the English, even when driven to Falta, were not prepared to rest content with trading rights only. On 30 July 1756, Major Killpatrick arrived from Madras with a contingent of 200 troops, and subsequently news came that a large force was coming by sea for the recovery of Calcutta. The news greatly heartened the fugitives. On 18 September 1756, ten days after the *bazar* was opened by the Nawab's Governor for their benefit, they occupied their little factory at Balramgarhi, which had not been seized by the Nawab, and on 25 October, they formally declared it as the seat of their Presidency.

The arrival of Major Killpatrick and the news that further reinforcements were on the way compelled Manik Chand to make warlike preparations; but these were rather clumsy and half-hearted. The French and the Dutch were sounded if they could help the Nawab against the English.

Calcutta and Hooghly Recovered by the Company

Admiral Watson arrived at Falta on 14 December 1756, and Clive arrived soon after, at the head of the sea and the land forces respectively. On 17 December, "a letter was then wrote to the Nabob from the Admiral implying his design of coming here to re-establish the Company and procure restitution of their losses which, it was hoped, the Nabob would be inclinable to grant. This letter was wrote with intention to amuse him and prevent his re-inforcing the garrison at Calcutta during the delay of the squadron at Fulta [on] account of the spring tides."¹ The Admiral also secured the neutrality of the French and the Dutch. "Then after refreshing the military and sea-men, the squadron moved up the river on the 28th December; two days after Buz Budgea [Budge-Budge] (a place of great strength) was attacked by the Admiral's ships, and about eight in the evening carried by assault. From thence Mr. Watson proceeded towards Tannah, and having dismounted their guns, both there and at a battery erected opposite to it, he brought his squadron before Fort William on the 2 January, and retook the place in less than two hours."²

No doubt, the recovery of Calcutta was facilitated by the cowardly conduct of Manik Chand; but, at the same time, the Nawab also contributed to it as he had not anticipated the arrival of a powerful force from Madras, and even when he got the news he did not believe it, as Watts testifies in his letter of 30 January 1757.³ He had not, therefore, reinforced the garrisons at Calcutta and elsewhere, or taken any other precautionary measure. The fact is that the Nawab did not cherish any vindictive designs against the English, once he had chastised them; and even when they returned in strength, he thought that they would supplicate for mercy and this would be the proper time to forgive them. That is why he had neither destroyed their settlements, nor despoiled their stores, which is proved by the fact that after the recovery of Fort William the English found there "a large quantity of export goods" and "a very considerable part of the investment" intact.⁴

¹ P. 178. The pages quoted here and elsewhere where no books or documents are cited refer to the Text.

² P. 189.

³ P. 184.

⁴ Pp. 189 & 198.

The Company followed up the capture of Calcutta by a bold declaration of war and called upon the neighbouring zamindars to pay their revenues to the Company. They then attacked the fort of Hooghly, which was "blown up by Major Killpatrick, and the town and the *gunge* etc. were burnt to ashes"—a measure intended to strike terror into the Nawab's troops and to encourage malcontents to come over to the English side.² These hostile proceedings disillusioned the Nawab as to the intentions of the English, and he gathered an army to march on Calcutta.

Nawab's Advance on Calcutta

At this very time information regarding the outbreak of the Seven Years' War reached Calcutta and the official announcement was made on 12 January 1757. When the news of the Nawab's advance was received, the Council at Fort William urged Admiral Watson to conclude a treaty of neutrality with the French at Chandernagore as proposed by them banning hostilities on the Ganges; and pending the conclusion of such a treaty they began making preparations to take the field, and they hoped "if successful in one decisive battle, to end these troubles upon terms both honourable and advantageous to the Company in a short time".⁴ Their idea was to have a brief, quick and successful campaign. In the meantime they heard that the Nawab had approached the French to mediate between him and the English. Thereupon, the Council intimated to the French their terms for an accommodation with the Nawab. Their terms were: (1) reparation for all losses and damages; (2) permission to erect fortifications in whatever part of the country where they chose to have a factory; (3) restoration of all rights, privileges and immunities to their factories; and (4) permission to establish a mint in Calcutta.⁵ These terms were duly forwarded by the French to Khwajah Wajid, and it was anticipated that there would be little difficulty in securing these terms, except the one relating to the establishment of a mint.⁶ Side by side with these negotiations, military manoeuvres proceeded apace and Clive marched out with his army and encamped on the Baranagar plain outside Calcutta, where he thought he would be in a position to defend himself against the Nawab's army of 30,000.⁷ Perhaps, Sirajud-Daulah wanted to test the strength of the English before he entered into an accommodation with them on the terms which had been forwarded to him and which could not have been agreeable to him. That is why on 3 February he asked the English to send their agents to meet him at Nawabganj to discuss the terms of settlement. But when the English agents arrived at Nawabganj the next day, they found that the Nawab had entered Calcutta with a part of his army. Clive had been suspicious from the very beginning. Now he was convinced that the Nawab "only meant to amuse them", and to force his hands he decided to make a surprise attack on his camp at night.

² P. 178.

⁴ P. 179.

⁷ Pp. 179-80.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁸ P. 197.

*Clive's Attack on the Nawab's Camp and the
Agreement of 9 February 1757*

The English agents, Walsh and Scrafton, met the Nawab in Omichand's garden and represented that "as they expected to have met him at Gonge, in a favourable disposition towards a peace with the English, they could not but be greatly surprized in finding him entered in a hostile manner into their very city, and that, unless he would manifest some desire of a peace by withdrawing his troops from the neighbourhood of Calcutta, they could not enter upon the business they came about". This was in the nature of an ultimatum to the Nawab, who naturally treated the English agents with "no small haughtiness".¹⁰ A little later they fled from the camp without taking formal leave of the Nawab and informed Clive of what had transpired and what they had seen.

In the meanwhile Clive was finding it difficult to maintain his position due to a general desertion of workmen and servants and the breaking up of the *bazar* that supplied him with provisions. In such a situation he was left with only two alternatives: either to attack the Nawab immediately "while two-thirds of the Nawab's army were still encamped outside the Maratha Ditch", or to retire "into the fort in disgrace". He chose the first alternative, and with an army of 2,000, including a body of sailors landed by Watson for his assistance, entered the camping ground of the Nawab in the early hours of the morning of 5 February, though with great difficulty owing to a thick fog. The attack had the desired effect, and the next day the Nawab moved on to Dum Dum.¹¹ The same day Ranjit Rai, Jagat Seth's *wakil*, wrote to the English to send their proposals for a settlement, as the Nawab was inclined to accept them.

There is a French version of this affair. According to Jean Law, "It was their [English] interest to decide the quarrel in the quickest way, for fear we should resolve to take part in it. Accordingly as soon as they saw the enemy they purposely spread the alarm in Calcutta. All the women were ordered on board the ships. The country merchants and people who had entered Calcutta with the English left it, all with the intention of giving confidence to the Nawab and encouraging him to approach so that they might be more certain of the blows they struck him." The Nawab fell into the snare. He imagined his mere presence would suffice to put the enemy to flight, and the present attack would take the same course as that of the month of June in the preceding year. He advanced and was soon in possession of the outskirts of the town. To deceive him more completely, and to examine the position of his camp, the English sent deputies the day before the attack on the pretext of discussing peace terms. Further on he adds, "The next day, the 5 February, at 4 or 5 A.M., in a thick fog, the English, commanded by Colonel Clive, attacked the Nawab's Camp and fell precisely upon the tent in which the deputies had seen him the evening before. (I heard this from several Moorish officers who were in the Nawab's army.)

¹⁰ Pp. 199-200.

¹¹ P. 200.

Luckily for him he was not there. One of his *Diwans*, who suspected the deputation, had advised him to pass the night in a tent further off."¹²

This account appears remarkable for what it reveals. The fact seems to be that there was no sincerity on either side and each was seeking to steal a march over the other. Sirajud-Daulah had entered Calcutta with a part of his army and was within striking distance of the fort. His intentions were clear to everybody. Similarly the English had made their preparations, and Clive had persuaded Watson on 21 January 1757 to place a body of sailors under his command when he needed them. If Clive had not attacked, the Nawab would have done so. The parties by their peace-parleys had been seeking an opportunity to outwit each other, and the one who struck first and with effect was bound to have an advantage over the other. As it happened, Clive, by his quick and daring decision, got the better of the Nawab.

Hill describes this skirmish as "much more bloody than the decisive battle of Plassey":¹³ the English had lost nearly 200 in killed and wounded, while the Nawab's casualties numbered nearly 1,300. It was not by itself a striking achievement; only its effects were remarkable. The Nawab, whose nature was a mixture of cruelty and cowardice, took fright and opened negotiations for peace. The treaty of 9 February that followed conceded almost all the demands of the English. The Nawab had shown that he lacked courage and resolution and was afraid of the English. Clive and Watson made full use of this knowledge in the months to come.

War with France and Capture of Chandernagore

While the English were engaged with the Nawab, there was a great danger of the French joining hands with him, for the Seven Years' War had broken out in Europe on 17 May 1756 and had been announced officially in Calcutta on 12 January 1757. Fortunately for the Company, as stated above, the French were not averse to a neutrality agreement to prevent the war from spreading into Bengal, and negotiations were proceeding while Clive secured his victory over the Nawab and concluded the treaty of 9 February 1757. Now, as the Nawab withdrew from Calcutta, and since no agreement had been reached as yet with the French, Clive and the Fort William Council thought the time to be opportune to attack Chandernagore and destroy the French power in Bengal. They hoped to persuade the Nawab to permit an attack on Chandernagore, and Omichand was asked to sound the Nawab on the subject. From what Omichand told it appeared that the Nawab was agreeable, but subsequently the Nawab wrote to the English forbidding hostilities against the French and declaring that he would consider any attempt against them as a violation of the treaty lately concluded with him, and would be obliged to assist the French with his utmost force.¹⁴ There was some reason for the Nawab's change of mind. He was expecting the

¹² Hill, S. C. (Ed.), *Bengal in 1756-57*, vol. III, p. 182.

¹³ *Ibid.*, vol. I, p. cxlvi.

¹⁴ Pp. 201-02.

arrival of French reinforcements, and on their arrival he intended to join the French side and punish the English. He was playing a shrewd game, but his hopes did not materialise. The French troops under Bussy did not arrive. Moreover, the Nawab was obliged to ask the English to help him against the impending danger from the Afghans. Clive argued that the English could not come to his help without reducing the French at Chandernagore, since in the absence of a neutrality agreement there was every danger of their attacking Calcutta. These arguments were reinforced by open threats, and Watson wrote to the Nawab on 4 March, "I will kindle such a flame in your country, as all the water in the Ganges shall not be able to extinguish."¹⁵ The determined moves taken by Clive for the capture of the place and his own circumstances obliged the Nawab to give his unwilling consent. Accordingly, Chandernagore was attacked and after a day's severe fighting the fort surrendered on 23 March 1757.¹⁶

The Nawab had lost in the second round also. The fall of Chandernagore had two important results. When the Nawab's subjects heard how the English battleships had brought their guns to bear on the French with deadly effect and brought about the fall of the fort, they were greatly impressed, and his enemies began to intrigue with the English for their support. Secondly, the Nawab was deprived of the only ally he could depend upon in a trial of strength with the English. The English, easy at heart, could now embark upon any new adventure in the dangerous game of high politics.

Intrigues at Sirajud-Daulah's Court

The game which culminated in the great revolution of 1757 had already started in Murshidabad. The actors who took a prominent part in it were primarily the Jagat Seths (Mahtab Rai and Swarup Chand), Mir Jafar and Raja Rai Durlabh or Durlabhram. According to Law, the Seths were "the originators of the revolution; without them the English would never have carried out what they have".¹⁷ They were the most determined as also the most resourceful of the Nawab's enemies. They had been grossly ill-treated by the Nawab. The honour and consideration they used to receive from Ali Verdi Khan had given place to hatred and humiliation under Sirajud-Daulah. They had been bankers to the Mughal Emperors, and "were the richest and most powerful" merchants of India. They had helped Ali Verdi Khan to overthrow Sarfaraz Khan, and during his reign they had in their hands the management of all important business. "Sirajud-Daulah, the most inconsiderate of men, thinking it impossible that he could have need of these *saukars*, or that he could have any reason to fear them, never showed them the least politeness . . . They could, with time, form a party and, even without the assistance of Europeans, put another Nawab on the throne."¹⁸ These business magnates, adept in court intrigues, wanted a capable military leader to overthrow the Nawab.

¹⁵ Hill, *op. cit.*, vol. II, p. 273.

¹⁶ P. 212.

¹⁷ Hill, *op. cit.*, vol. III, p. 185.

¹⁸ Hill, *op. cit.*, vol. III, p. 175.

Next to the Seths came Mir Jafar, who was a near relation of Sirajud-Daulah, having married the sister of Ali Verdi Khan. He was an able officer of the army, and a man of proved loyalty. For many years he had been the *Mir Bakhshi* or Paymaster General of the army. "He enjoyed the special confidence of Ali Verdi Khan, who, on his death bed, had recommended Sirajud-Daulah to him and made him swear on the Koran never to abandon him. . . . Without his support Sirajud-Daulah would never have been the Nawab. He alone kept him on the throne."¹⁹ Instead of showing him due consideration and respect, Sirajud-Daulah treated him with the grossest ingratitude, and "after having addressed Mir Jafar Ali Khan the most insulting epithets in full *darbar*, deprived him of his office of *Bakshi*."²⁰ Mir Jafar felt outraged and threw in his lot with the Seths.

Next to Mir Jafar came Raja Rai Durlabh, the Nawab's *Diwan*; and a military leader of some reputation, who was credited with the capture of Calcutta. "He wished, he said, to maintain his reputation; but after the affair of the 5th February, in which the only part he took was to share in the flight, he was not the same man; he feared nothing so much as to have to fight the English. This fear disposed him to come to terms gradually with the Seths of whose greatness he was very jealous. He also hated the Nawab by whom he had been ill-used on many occasions."²¹

Besides the above, Sirajud-Daulah had antagonised a number of others by his policy. The spoliation of Ghasita Begam, removal of Mir Jafar to make room for Mir Madan, elevation of Mohanlal, which was resented by Raja Rai Durlabh, appointment of Raja Manik Chand as Governor of Calcutta, which was insulting to men like Umar Khan and his two sons—Salabat Khan and Diler Khan—who were soldiers of merit, his hatred for Raja Rajballabh, the *Diwan* of Nawazish Muhammad Khan, because of which he had to send away his son Kishanballabh or Krishna Das to take shelter with the English at Calcutta, distrust of Mirza Umar Beg, who was a confidant of Mir Jafar in his schemes with the English, ill-treatment of Mir Nazir Ali, Ghasita Begam's favourite, and lastly his shocking behaviour towards the Jagat Seths—these earned him, rightly or wrongly, widespread enmity in the Court circles. All these men, as Ghulam Husain Khan wrote, "wished no better than to be rid of such a Government, by Sirajud-Daulah's death; so that whenever they chanced to perceive any appearance of discontent anywhere, or any hatred against the present Government, they would send secret messages to the party, with exhortations to find some mode of deliverance."²²

Hill's Views on the Revolution

Such were the main actors in the drama. Many of them were tried hands, having participated in the revolution which had overthrown Sarfaraz Khan to make room for Ali Verdi Khan. Owing to their past experience they played their roles with a skill that completely outwitted the Nawab.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 211.

²⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 190-91.

²² *Seir Mutaqherin*, vol. II, p. 193.

Before we proceed with the narrative we may consider how far the fall of Sirajud-Daulah was the work of the powerful enemies he had created, and how far the revolution was a popular upsurge against an oppressive ruler or a Hindu reaction against Muhammadan rule. The view of Law that "every one longed for a change, and many flattered themselves it would take place"²³ is not correct, as only those who had a determining voice in the administration wanted a change. It is equally incorrect to say, as Hill does, that a deeper cause of the revolution was "the discontent of the Hindus towards the Muhammadan Government".²⁴ Far from proving this, Hill has proved the reverse when he writes, "The Nawabs, relying as they did for their supremacy on a foreign soldiery, considered it wise to hold their warlike followers in check by the employment of up-country Hindus in many of the high offices of the State, both civil and military, and in the Government of the subordinate divisions of the kingdom. These Hindus were especially influential in matters of finance, for the commerce of the province was almost entirely in the hands of great merchants, most of whom were up-country Hindus, like Omichand and the Seths."²⁵ Since the Hindus were holding key positions in Government, and controlled the commerce of the country through their alliance with Government, they could not have had anything to complain against the Muhammadan Government that relied so much on their support. If they had a grudge against or showed discontent "towards the Muhammadan Government", why did they choose another Muhammadan, namely Mir Jafar, to take the place of Sirajud-Daulah? And it cannot be supposed that by choosing Mir Jafar they changed the complexion of the Government from Muhammadan to Hindu! If it is suggested that the Hindu peasantry of Bengal were discontented, then Hill himself dispels the doubt when he says, "I think every student of social history will confess that the condition of the peasantry in Bengal in the middle of the eighteenth century compared not unfavourably with that of the same class in France or Germany."²⁶

Hill thinks he is reinforcing his point when he says, "There was at this time a revival of Hindu feeling coincident with the gradual weakening of the Muhammadan power throughout India as a whole and, more particularly, in Bengal. Thus, we find that the partisans of the British were almost all Hindus or proteges of the Hindus",²⁷ like Mir Jafar. The argument is unconvincing, for if they had thought in terms of a Hindu revival, they were unlikely to conspire to overthrow one Muslim Nawab in favour of another, and, again, they would have thought of the Marathas, who were near at hand, and not of the British.

The fact is that those who wanted a different Nawab did not think in terms of a Hindu revival or the overthrow of an alien, that is, Muhammadan Government. They were just a few disgruntled, self-seeking, ambitious men who wanted power, and as Sirajud-Daulah was becoming too masterful and they were losing their power and importance, they wanted to overthrow

²³ Hill, *op. cit.*, vol. III, p. 173.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. I, p. lii.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, p. xxi.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, p. xxiii.

²⁷ *Ibid.*

him. The English came in handy at this juncture, and it was a most fortuitous combination of parties, pursuing the same objective.

Company's Intrigues with Mir Jafar and the Battle of Plassey

The facts become clear as we pursue the course of events. Within a short time after he came to the throne in 1756, Sirajud-Daulah had made himself unpopular with a number of his officials and courtiers as described above. These people had watched with surprise and fear his early successes in his undertakings, and could see no way of overthrowing him. But, after the recapture of Calcutta by the English, the burning of Hooghly Fort, the defeat of the Nawab in the skirmish of 5 February 1757, the fall of Chandernagore, and the treaty that followed, they came to feel that the assistance of the English would be most useful in effecting their purpose. Soon after his arrival at Falta, Clive came to know that many prominent men in the Nawab's Government wanted to overthrow him, and he immediately made contacts with them. On 26 December 1756, Clive wrote to Mir Nazir Ali, the paramour of Ghasita Begam, "Your sufferings cannot be greater than those of the English; however (thank God) there is now a prospect of gaining satisfaction for all our losses. Your *Vakeel* will be able to inform you what great things the English have done in other parts, and I am hopeful the force we have brought will enable us to do the like here, especially if we are so fortunate as to have your assistance."²⁸ On 8 January 1757, he wrote to the Jagat Seths, "I write you this letter of friendship that you may endeavour to settle all affairs for your master's interest, your own and the Company's."²⁹ To Khwajah Wajid, he wrote the same day, "You have always been esteemed amongst our most hearty friends, nor do I doubt but you will use your interest with the Nawab that these troubles may be ended by a peaceable and happy accommodation."³⁰ These efforts of Clive to win over the Nawab's courtiers were not in vain, for Renault, the French Governor of Chandernagore, referring to the English attack on the Nawab's camp on 5 February 1757 and the treaty that followed, wrote, "The ministers of the Nawab, almost all of whom were partisans of the English, desiring only to make peace, profited by this occasion to bring the Nawab to it, and he, forced by the mutinous disposition of his generals and by the fear of a Pathan invasion, found himself, contrary to his own wishes, obliged to consent and even to submit to extremely hard conditions."³¹ During the Anglo-French conflict culminating in the fall of Chandernagore also, the partisans of the English at the Nawab's Court were busy using their influence against the French.

The three months that followed the fall of Chandernagore to the battle of Plassey were a period of hectic intrigue and activity. The English were anxious to eliminate altogether the French influence in Bengal. They demanded from the Nawab the surrender of all French factories and of all

²⁸ *Bengal and Madras Papers*, vol. II, Colonel Clive's Correspondence, letter no. 7.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, letter no. 9.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, letter no. 10.

³¹ Hill, *op. cit.*, vol. III, pp. 246-47.

Frenchmen in Bengal with their effects. The Nawab could neither resist this demand nor accept it with good grace. On 16 April Law, with his Frenchmen, left the Court of Murshidabad for Patna. The feelings of the Nawab and the English on this occasion were greatly embittered by mutual recriminations, and the way was prepared for Plassey. On 20 April the Nawab, in an outburst of anger, expelled the English agent from his Court, although he sent him a robe of honour the next day. The English, however, were not deceived. They were aware that the Nawab was in active correspondence with Bussy and Law against them.³² Apprehensive of the arrival of Bussy, they threw in their lot with the courtiers of the Nawab who were actively conspiring against their master.³³ On 1 May Clive informed the Council that he had received two letters from Watts, dated 26 and 28 April, informing him that "Jaffir Ally Khan had sent for Coja Petrouse and given him to understand that most of the Nabob's principal officers were tired of his Government and ready to desert him and set up another, if we would countenance and support the confederacy with the assistance of our troops; that if we approved of this scheme he desired our demands of what monies, lands &c. would induce us to engage in the business."³⁴ The confederacy was composed of Mir Jafar, the Jagat Seths, Rahim Khan, Raja Durlabhram, Bahadur Ali Khan and others. Even Ghasita Begam was up against the Nawab and spending money freely in furtherance of the conspiracy.³⁵ The terms were settled and on 17 May the Calcutta Council were informed that their terms were acceptable to Mir Jafar. Accordingly, on 19 May, the treaty was signed and sealed by the Admiral and the members of the Committee. In the meanwhile, a forged treaty to hoodwink Omichand was also prepared. On 11 June Mirza Umar Beg handed over the treaty in Persian executed by Mir Jafar, and also brought assurances from him that "there would be very little difficulty in effecting a change of government, and that . . . Jaffir Aly Khan would be punctual in performing every article of his agreement."³⁶ After the preliminaries were thus settled, Clive commenced his march on 13 June. The same day he sent a letter to the Nawab stating that he was coming to Cossimbazar as directed by the Council in order to "put our disputes to arbitration before Juggut Seat, Rajah Mohun Lal, Meer Jaffer Khan, Rajah Roy Dulub, Meer Murdun and the rest of your great men, and if it shall appear I have deviated from the treaty, I bind myself to give up all my demands".³⁷ On the previous evening Watts with his party had fled from the Court on the pretext of visiting a country house.

On 19 June Mir Jafar sent a letter to Mirza Umar Beg revealing the military dispositions ordered by the Nawab. On the 20th, after the capture of Katwa, Clive wrote to the Raja of Birbhum, Raja Asaduz-Zaman Khan, to join him on the eve of the coming battle. The Raja was an enemy of the Nawab and professed "strong friendship" for the English. Thus, backed by the enemies of the Nawab, all of whom, except the Jagat Seths and Rai

³² Pp. 237-39.

³³ P. 226.

³⁴ P. 225.

³⁵ Hill, *op. cit.*, vol. I, p. clxxxiii, note 6.

³⁶ P. 227.

³⁷ *Bengal and Madras Papers*, vol. II, Colonel Clive's Correspondence, letter no. 150.

Darlahh, were Muslims. Clive marched on to Plassey on 22 June, and the historic battle was fought on the next day. On the field of battle, Mir Jafar and Rai Darlahh remained inactive. Of the Nawab's friends, Mir Madan was killed in the fight and Mohanlal gave a good account of himself by his courage and fidelity. The Nawab, observing the treacherous conduct of Mir Jafar, called him and appealed to him to preserve the honour of the house of Ali Verdi Khan at that hour of great danger. In response to the Nawab's earnest appeal, the perfidious Mir Jafar advised him to stop the battle for the day and order Mohanlal to retreat. That was the end. The retreat became a rout, and soon everyone, including the Nawab, fled, with the British in hot pursuit. Only the confederates remained on the field to discuss the further plan of action.

On the evening of 24 June Mir Jafar arrived near the city of Murshidabad. That very night the Nawab fled with his wife and a few trusted servants. Mir Kasim was sent in pursuit. The Nawab was taken prisoner near Rajmahal on 30 June, having been betrayed by a Muslim *fakir*. He was brought to Murshidabad on 2 July and that very night brutally murdered by one Muhammad Beg at the command of Miran, son of Mir Jafar. The brutality of the son gave a finishing touch to the treachery of the father.

Thus perished Sirajud-Daulah by the hand of violence, betrayed by his own kinsmen and courtiers whose only motive was mean self-interest. They joined hands with Raja Darlahhram and the Seths, who had personal grudge against Sirajud-Daulah. Sirajud-Daulah had enemies on all sides, of whom the most powerful, as also the most resourceful, were the English. Had he not made the English his bitterest enemies, he would not, perhaps, have been driven to destruction so quickly. But during the few months that he ruled he had, following the policy of his grandfather, reposed more confidence in the Hindu officers of his Government. That was his sin in the eyes of his kinsmen like Mir Jafar. In this dark episode of treachery, the fidelity of men like Mohanlal, Mir Madan, Rajaram Singh and his brother Kalyan Singh, throws a gleam of pleasant light. But the support of the Seths and the adherence of the English to the opposite side more than counterbalanced the strength of the Nawab's supporters, and to aggravate the situation the Nawab was an inexperienced youth of twenty. His resolution could be easily shaken and his emotion of fear easily excited. When he succeeded his grandfather his good luck was envied by many and his arrogance was detested by all. Even a childless widow like Ghasita Begam, his mother's sister, spared no pains to encompass his fall, and his own father-in-law Mirza Iredj or Irajud-Din Khan abandoned him at the moment of his defeat and humiliation, even though he "lay his turban at his feet".²⁴

Mir Jafar's Treaty with the English

The upshot was that Mir Jafar Khan, "the author of all these evils and troubles",²⁵ succeeded as Nawab. He attained to a position of which the bulwark was the power of the English, a fact which he was very slow to realize.

²⁴ *Seir Mutaqherin*, vol. II, p. 234.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 231.

One of the pressing tasks that faced the Nawab immediately after his installation was that of fulfilling the terms of his treaty with the English, the substance of which, in the words of Clive, was as follows:

“1st. Confirmation of the mint and all other grants and privileges in the treaty with the late Nabob.

2nd. An alliance, offensive and defensive, against all enemies whatever.

3rd. The French factories and effects to be delivered up and they never permitted to resettle in any of the three provinces.

4th. One hundred lack of rupees to be paid to the Company in consideration of their losses at Calcutta and the expenses of the campaign.

5th. Fifty lack of rupees to be given to the English sufferers at the loss of Calcutta.

6th. Twenty lacks to Jentoos, Moors &c., black sufferers at the loss of Calcutta.

7th. Seven lacks to the Armenian sufferers. These three last donations to be distributed at the pleasure of the Admiral and the gentlemen of the Council including me.

8th. The entire property of all lands within the Moratto Ditch which runs round Calcutta to be vested in the Company, also six hundred yards all round without the said Ditch.

9th. The Company to have the zemindarry of the country to the south of Calcutta lying between the lake and the river and reaching as far as Culpce, they paying the customary rents paid by former zemindars to the Government.

10th. Whenever the assistance of the English troops shall be wanted their extraordinary charges to be paid by the Nabob.

11th. No forts to be erected by the Government on the river side from Hugly downwards.

12th. The foregoing articles to be performed without delay as soon as Jaffier Ally Khan becomes *Subah*.⁴⁰

In conformity with the terms of the treaty Mir Jafar gave the Company as a gift, free of all obligations, the town of Calcutta and some of the adjoining villages. He also gave them in zamindari right the 24-Parganas, lying south of Calcutta.

The restitution money, together with the fifty lakhs which he had promised to pay the Company's army and navy by way of reward, came to a total of 227 lakhs of *sicca* rupees. Since this sum could not be paid at once because the treasury contained only 150 lakhs, it was agreed that one half of the stipulated amount should be immediately paid, two-thirds in money and one-third in gold and silver plates, jewels, etc., and the other half discharged within three years in three equal annual instalments. A mint was permitted to be established at Calcutta. “Mandates from the Nabob

⁴⁰ Pp. 232-33.

were issued for the freedom of the English trade throughout the province, but permitting it only under the usual passport of the Company's *dastaks*, and without exemption from the former prohibitions of dealing in any commodities excepting such as were imported or were purchased to be exported to sea."⁴¹ Indeed so promptly and willingly did the Nawab fulfil his part of the stipulations that the Select Committee wrote to the Directors on 20 August in these terms: "We have the further pleasure to inform you that the *Subah* acquits himself of his engagement to our entire satisfaction."⁴² In their letter of the same date the Select Committee observed that "profound tranquillity" reigned in the country, and the new *Subah* seemed "firmly established in his Government being a humane prince and much esteemed by his subjects".⁴³

Rule of Mir Jafar : Main Trends

But the tranquillity of the country and the security of the Nawab were only imaginary. They were, in fact, the precursors of a period of violent disturbances that shook the foundations of society and government in Bengal and ruined her economic system. For the next quarter of a century Bengal was to witness scenes of destruction and disaster. With Mir Jafar's accession the flood-gates of corruption and confusion were opened. Not only the English merchants but also his own subjects sought to defy his authority. The partisans of Sirajud-Daulah rebelled against him in various parts of the country and stopped payment of revenues. The English indulged in the forbidden trade in salt, betel-nut and tobacco. Shrewd and unscrupulous fortune-seekers, both English and Indian, poured into the countryside and abused the privilege of *dastaks*, which the Company could issue only in respect of goods exported by sea or imported into the country. The sources of revenue were as a result depleted. The army could not be regularly paid or properly equipped, and it was in a chronic state of disaffection. Taking advantage of the disturbed conditions Shujaud-Daulah, Shahzada Ali Gauhar and the Marathas threatened the country. This was the situation which Mir Jafar and Clive had to face, and it will be seen how adroitly Clive managed the situation and established the authority of the Company in Bengal.

We may note at the outset four important developments which characterized the reign of Mir Jafar during the period under review. The first was the widespread prevalence of an inland private trade in which the Company's servants and their agents freely participated, utilizing the privileges attached to the Company's *dastaks* to cover their illicit transactions. The second was Clive's active interference in the disputes between Mir Jafar and the zamindars and officers whose relations with him were strained either because of their attachment to the cause of Sirajud-Daulah in the past or owing to conflicts that arose subsequently. His policy in this respect fostered

⁴¹ Orme, R., *A History of the Military Transactions of the British Nation in Indostan*, vol. II, p. 188.

⁴² P. 242.

⁴³ P. 250.

a spirit of defiance and contempt towards the Nawab's authority among his prominent subjects and created a sort of sphere of influence for the Company within his territory. The third was the initiation of a scheme of military assistance to the Nawab to quell internal disturbances and ward off external attacks in return for the payment of a subsidy, and this in later years developed into the system of subsidiary alliance. The fourth was the gradual alienation of his territories by the Nawab in favour of the Company, either in lieu of the money which he had agreed to pay according to the terms of the treaty or for military assistance which he received from time to time. The cumulative effect of all these developments was that the revenues of the Nawab were ruined; his military power completely collapsed; his civil authority was paralysed, and his territories passed bit by bit into the hands of the Company. On the other hand, the Company, which was just a trading corporation, acquired territorial interests and ambitions, and its servants became king-makers. These developments may now be considered in detail.

Illicit Inland Trade

In regard to the illicit inland trade differences between the English and Mir Jafar arose soon after the latter's accession to power. To make the best use of the vast advantages gained by the treaty with the Nawab, the Company's servants took to inland trading in salt and other articles. In carrying on their business, conscious of their military strength, they made improper use of *dastaks* granted to the Company exempting them from paying duties on merchandise intended for purposes of external trade. Since Indian merchants were not exempt from these duties, this unequal and unfair competition tended to give the Company's servants a virtual monopoly in the trade of these commodities. On 10 September 1757 Umar Beg Khan, *Faujdar* of Hooghly, complained to Clive that three boats laden with salt and other effects allegedly belonging to the Company were sailing without *dastaks*. "The Company never send salt," he wrote, "therefore I have not let the boats pass on your account. I am willing to submit to the loss of duty on one or two boats with salt. But the salt merchants complain and want to leave off the business. Mr. Watts and others that know the customs will inform you the Company never trade in salt. There are *Tellingees* in every boat ready to quarrel. The Governor of Chandernagore has wrote me to pass such boats as have *Tellingees*."⁴⁴ The fact was that the land from Calcutta to Kulpi granted to the Company was, by virtue of its maritime situation, favourable to salt manufacture. As soon as the Nawab's orders were issued for the transfer of these lands, the English merchants began freely to trade in salt manufactured in the Company's Zamindari. The Council at Fort William, which was well aware of this growing tendency among their servants, had desired the Resident at Murshidabad to request the Nawab to permit trade in the hitherto forbidden commodities. In their letter dated 20 August 1757 they informed the Court: "The President remembering something of a *machulka* exacted from Mr. Slackhouse, when Chief of Cossimbazar, not to trade for [in] salt or goods and grain not

⁴⁴ *Bengal and Madras Papers*, vol. II, Colonel Clive's Correspondence, letter no. 212A.

designed for exportation, and of a prohibition of the Government forbidding our winding off or purchasing the head letters only of raw silk, we have desired the gentlemen at Muxadabad to have the above mentioned *machulka* and prohibition made null and void, as we are not restrained in these particulars by the *phirmaund*.”⁴⁵ This indicates the mind of the Council. They were in favour of the Company’s servants participating in inland trade not merely in salt, betel-nut and tobacco but in all articles, including “salt or goods and grain not designed for exportation.”

There were two circumstances which favoured this development. There was a “great flow of private money obtained by the revolution”,⁴⁶ which could be profitably employed, and also the Company had been permitted by the Nawab to acquire 40 *bighas* of land wherever they wanted to build a factory. These gave a tremendous impetus to the expansion of the Company’s trade and contributed to unrestrained indulgence in illicit private trade by the Company’s servants. A network of the Company’s factories and sub-factories was built at convenient spots, and the people of Bengal saw with bitterness their country exploited to swell the earnings of the Company, their servants and their hirelings. There were loud complaints both from the Nawab and his people. The Council at Fort William was informed by the Company’s servants at Murshidabad in their letter dated 27 August 1757 that they had received complaints “of natives carrying on a considerable trade without *dustacks* under English colours”.⁴⁷ The *gomastahs* of the Company were mostly to blame for this, and very often they were doing this at the instance of their principals—agents and members of the mofussil factories. Their petty tyrannies are too well known to be described here. But it was difficult for the Nawab’s Government to restrain them in view of the *sanad* granted to them by the Nawab himself. According to the *sanad*, the Nawab instructed his officers thus: “The Company’s *gomastahs* shall buy or sell the Company’s goods without the interruption of the *delolls*, unless the Company’s *gomastahs* chuse to employ them. You are to assist them on all lawful occasions whenever they buy or sell. Whoever acts contrary to these orders the English have full power to punish them Take care that no one wrong or oppress the Company’s *gomastahs*. You are not to require or stop their boats on pretence of the *katbarra* or other duties on boats, whether they be the Company’s own boats or boats hired by their *gomastahs*.”⁴⁸ When the Nawab’s servants refused to pass the goods of persons in the employ or protection of the Company, the Company’s officers did not hesitate to employ force and they claimed the right to punish the Nawab’s servants in terms of the *sanad*. Such consequences resulting from the Nawab’s *sanad* were inevitable at a time when power was slipping from his hands, and he was not the master of his own house. It was also too much to expect the junior servants living far away from their homes to remain satisfied with Rs. 400/- a year as their salary, inclusive of all allowances, especially when the means of making easy money were at their disposal. Very often the senior servants of the Company seem to have led the way. In a letter to the Court

⁴⁵ P. 243.

⁴⁶ P. 414.

⁴⁷ P. 277.

⁴⁸ *Bengal and Madras Papers*, vol. II, Colonel Clive’s Correspondence, letter no. 206.

of Directors, Pearkes, a member of the Calcutta Council, is mentioned to have had "very large outstanding concerns" at Dacca, for the settlement of which he sought a temporary transfer there, which request was admitted by the Council.⁴⁹ The Directors were partly to blame for this situation because they had permitted private trade in the past and their servants had grown accustomed to trading on their own account. In consequence of the "load of complaints . . . strongly and repeatedly urged by the Nabob", the Court of Directors looked into the matter, and found that the *dastaks* had been "scandalously prostituted to the great prejudice of our revenue, equally iniquitous and detrimental to the Nabob".⁵⁰ They instructed the following procedure to be adopted in respect of the use of *dastaks*: "We . . . order that the Custom Master do in future keep the register of *dusticks*, and no *dustick* [he] granted but on oath made by the party demanding the same that the goods or merchandise specified be and are on his own proper account, and that he does not directly or indirectly therein cover the property of any of the natives of Bengal, free merchants or any others, excepting our investment contractors bringing down our goods (but not their own) and our covenanted servants, that the King or Moor's Government be not defrauded of their just duties and revenues."⁵¹

The Council at Fort William had also taken certain steps to check the abuse. On 10 January 1758 they informed the Court, "As a means to prevent the abuse of *dusticks* and the exactions of *chowkeys*, *gauts* etc., we have established a number of *dustacks* peons with badges carrying a Persian inscription signifying their being the Company's servants. With every *dustak* one of these peons is sent who is responsible for the goods passing free of all duties and impositions, and after delivering the goods, the peon is ordered to return the *dustack* to the President to be cancelled that no further use may be made of that *dustack*. We have rated the *dustacks* five rupees each, in order to defray the additional expense."⁵² Again, in March 1759, the Court of Directors expressed their dissatisfaction with the steps taken to correct the abuses, and ordered, "The persons under our protection having a right to English colours and abusing that privilege by smuggling should have their goods forfeited to the Company as an equitable recompense for the danger their dishonest actions bring us into by embroils with the Government. Those again who have no right to our colours and carry on such illicit practices should also be seized by you and delivered up to the Government."⁵³

In spite of these orders and regulations illicit trade continued to flourish. Sometimes private merchants sought the protection of the Company in order to participate freely in this trade. The Directors, coming to know of this, advised the Council at Fort William against giving the Company's protection "indiscriminately".⁵⁴ But all was in vain. It was impossible to stop the abuse. People knew that the Nabob's Government had little military power. When

⁴⁹ P. 359.

⁵⁰ P. 85.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*

⁵² P. 278.

⁵³ P. 140.

⁵⁴ P. 80.

Vansittart took over, he observed that the Nawab's people "slight him imagining that with us they will be sure to find protection".⁵⁵

*Reconciliation and Settlement : Clive's First
Expedition to Bihar*

We may now pass on to consider Clive's policy. Clive wanted the Government of Mir Jafar to be firmly established; but he found two great obstacles in the way of securing that objective. The first was the presence of three parties of Frenchmen led by Law, Courtin and Sinfray respectively, who had been at large ever since the fall of Chandernagore, ready to foment disaffection and create disturbances in the country. The second obstacle was created by disaffected chieftains in three different parts of the country, namely, Midnapore, Purnea and Patna. The junction of these two elements would have been disastrous, and Clive took prompt measures to prevent such a contingency. On 6 July 1757 he sent Major Coote with a fairly strong detachment to drive Law, who was at Patna, out of the country. Ramnarayan, the Deputy Governor of Patna, had allowed Law to remain there even after the fall of his patron Sirajud-Daulah, perhaps to have his assistance in a revolt he was hatching against Mir Jafar. His plans were completely upset by the prompt action taken by Clive. By the time Coote arrived at Patna on 26 July, Law had been dismissed and was leaving the country. Ramnarayan welcomed Coote, assured him of his friendship for the Company and supplied him with a reinforcement of troops when Coote started in pursuit of Law. Coote proceeded as far as Chapra, which he reached on 2 August, but returned because Law had crossed the frontier and found protection with the Raja of Benares. As regards Courtin, Clive wrote, "Mons. Courtin, who went off from Dacca with a few men, having rambled far beyond the Nabob's limits, returned towards Purnea in the late troubles. I have used all means to have him taken, but fear he has got out of our reach." Soon after he surrendered to Sraffton. Sinfray and his party were taken "in the Beerbhoom Country in their way to Purnea" by a detachment sent by Clive.⁵⁶ Thus Clive got rid of the French in Bengal, removing thereby one of the main obstacles to the consolidation of the new Government.

As regards the second obstacle referred to above, the chiefs principally disaffected and in a state of rebellion were Rajaram Singh at Midnapore, Hazir Ali Khan and Achal Singh at Purnea and Raja Ramnarayan at Patna. According to Clive, their grievances could be "very well attributed to the Nabob's own imprudence". He observed, "Rajah Ram's two brothers, after being invited to Muxadabad, were imprisoned, which was quite sufficient to deter him from surrendering himself as he intended. Meer Azisse was appointed to the government of Purnea to the general satisfaction of the people, but soon laid aside for Coddam Hussain Cawn, a relation, it is true, of the Nabob, but tyrannical, rapacious, and odious to the last degree to the Purneans. As for Ramnarayan, after he had made his submission and the Nabob had sworn to continue him in his government, apparent measures

⁵⁵ Vansittart, H., *A Narrative of Transactions in Bengal from 1760 to 1764*, vol. I, p. 64.

⁵⁶ Pp. 259-60.

were taken for his overthrow."⁵⁷ Nor was this all. The Nawab had started suspecting his own *Diwan* Rai Durlabh and the Jagat Seths, who had supported him in gaining the throne. "The Prime Minister Roy Duhup Ram," wrote Clive, "who was one of the chief instruments of the Nabob's and had received in return solemn assurances of continuing his *Duan*, was suspected to be engrossing the power in his hands and rather to have encouraged the three rebellions than endeavoured to suppress them. It is very certain that Roy Duhup had a powerful party in the state, and more than probable that he took measures to strengthen it according to the common policy of all *Duans*. However this might be the Nabob's jealousy of him was carried to such a height that Surajah Daulah's brother, a young lad and almost an idiot, was suddenly cut off on a surmise of Roy Duhup's intending to make him Nabob and having sent his own brother to Chandernagore to engage me in the design, which is altogether groundless. Roy Duhup no sooner knew of this sudden execution and the motive for it, than he began immediately to fear for his own life, and open hostilities might possibly have ensued if we had not been a check to each party."⁵⁸ Such was the internal condition of the government of the new *Subah* within six months of his accession. He had three disaffected chieftains to deal with and his own *Diwan* to conciliate.

The disaffection of Raja Ramnarayan and Rajaram Singh assumed special significance since their territories bordered on Oudh and Orissa respectively, from where Shujand-Daulah and the Marathas were casting covetous eyes on Bengal, already distracted by the recent revolution. Indeed, after Law had taken shelter with Shujand-Daulah, an attack from Oudh was expected at any time. This is clear from a letter from Mir Jafar's agent at Shujand-Daulah's Court to Umar Beg Khan in which he says, "If on account of the rains you forbear coming to Patna, depend on it they (Shujand-Daulah and Raja of Benares) will fall on you The Rajah of Benares has wrote several times to Shujand-Daulah to enter the country or that Patna is empty."⁵⁹ Ramnarayan was, of course, expected to cooperate with them to serve his own ends. Since at this time ten French ships arrived on the Coromandel Coast, even Clive thought that "Mons. Bussy may perhaps endeavour to conclude an alliance with Shujand-Daulah and come this way."⁶⁰ Therefore the problem before Clive was to take all possible care to settle promptly the government of the country and compose the differences of the Nawab with his own officers and conciliate rebels like Ramnarayan and Rajaram Singh. In a letter to the Nawab dated 30 September 1757, he pointed out the dangerous consequences of an alliance between the French and Shujand-Daulah, "especially if the Bihar and Midnapore countries were not settled". And, therefore, he impressed upon the Nawab the need of conciliating Rajaram Singh and Ramnarayan rather than of employing force against them.⁶¹ Owing to the rebellion in Purnea and "some bad designs at Patna" he wrote to the Nawab on 2 October 1757 that he should take the field as soon as possible: "Now that troubles are coming on and that you must march to

⁵⁷ P. 257.

⁵⁸ Pp. 257-58.

⁵⁹ *Bengal and Madras Papers*, vol. II, Colonel Clive's Correspondence, letter no. 209.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, letter no. 219.

⁶¹ *Ibid.*, letter no. 220.

the north, you should leave no enemies behind you. For that reason I would have you make [up] matters with Rajaram[s] Hircarrah."⁶² That was Clive's advice to the Nawab about Rajaram and Ramnarayan. With regard to Rai Durlabh and the Seths he advised him to adopt a similar course. In the same letter he wrote to him, "If you value your own safety and honour in all things follow the advice of the Seths and Rai Dullub Ram, and all will end well."⁶³

Having tendered this advice to the Nawab, Clive proceeded to exert his influence on the chiefs to bring about a reconciliation. He had already opened correspondence with Rajaram Singh, who was willing to submit, provided his brother and nephew were released and he himself was pardoned by the Nawab. Rajaram met Clive on 6 November and, accompanied by him, went to Murshidabad "on promise of Nawab's pardon and our protection".⁶⁴ At Murshidabad Clive introduced Rajaram Singh to Miran, Mir Jafar's son, in the absence of the Nawab, and settled their differences. This unlinked "the chain of the three rebellions, the chiefs of which had held a correspondence and were connected together". He visited also Raja Rai Durlabh at Murshidabad and persuaded him, with a promise of his personal guarantee against all mischief, to meet the Nawab, who was at Rajmahal. Since he was ill at the time Durlabhram promised to follow him after he had recovered. Clive left Murshidabad on 30 November and came up with the Nawab at Rajmahal on 3 December. Durlabhram joined him on 24 December and on the 30th a conference took place between the Nawab, Durlabh Ram and Clive, at which "the Nabob and Roy Doolub made a solemn renunciation of all their former suspicions and animosity".⁶⁵ The rebellion in Purnea, headed by Achal Singh, was easily quelled. On Clive's coming to Rajmahal some of the Nawab's troops crossed the river and entered Purnea. On this the rebels quitted their entrenchments and dispersed, but some of their chiefs were overtaken and made prisoners.

There was now only the rebellion of Ramnarayan at Patna to be dealt with. Clive had already written to Ramnarayan on 9 November offering his good offices to bring about a reconciliation between him and the Nawab. After the reconciliation of Durlabhram, Clive and the Nawab left Rajmahal and proceeded towards Patna. On 1 January 1758 he invited Ramnarayan to meet him. "I am fully convinced," he wrote, "of the Nabob's good intentions towards you, and the friendship that he has for you, and that he will continue you in your government . . . We shall march tomorrow and I shall be in the van of the army; when you come I myself will go with you to the Nabob and be security for you."⁶⁶ After this Ramnarayan did not hesitate to come. He met Clive on 25 January 1758 and the Nawab on the following day, and he was received with the attention befitting his rank. The Nawab's march to Patna was then resumed. On 5 February the English troops under Clive, who were forming the van, entered the city of Patna and, subsequently, at the request of the Nawab, took up quarters at Banki-

⁶² *Bengal and Madras Papers*, vol. II, Colonel Clive's Correspondence, letter no. 222.

⁶³ *Ibid.*

⁶⁴ P. 258.

⁶⁵ Orme, *op. cit.*, p. 276.

⁶⁶ *Bengal and Madras Papers*, vol. II, Colonel Clive's Correspondence, letter no. 314.

pore, about five miles from the city. Then started a series of intrigues to isolate Ramnarayan from the English and degrade him from his position. But Clive was not to be deflected from his resolve, nor would Durlabhram desert Ramnarayan. The intrigues of the parties would have continued for long. But news was received at the time that Shujaud-Daulah intended to invade Bihar in co-operation with the Marathas and the French under Law, and that Shiva Bhat had come from the Marathas to demand from the Nawab the arrears of *chauth* amounting to 24 lakhs. These developments forced a speedy settlement of all outstanding issues. On 23 February 1758 the Nawab held a *darbar* and announced the appointment of his son as Nawab of Patna and of Ramnarayan as his deputy in actual charge of administration. To this *darbar* also came, on Clive's assurances of pardon and safety, two of the refractory chieftains of Bihar—Sundar Singh, who had been fighting with Kamgar Khan in Birbhum, and Pahlawan Singh, whose territory lay on the borders of Bihar. The third rebellion also ended peacefully, not a shot having been fired.

But this was not all. Clive helped to reconcile other chiefs also to the new regime—Muhammad Asaduz-Zaman Khan, Zamindar of Birbhum,⁶⁷ and Hafizullah Khan, son of Sarfaraz Khan.⁶⁸ By these activities Clive had, within six months after the battle of Plassey, firmly established the political influence of the Company in the country.

The rebellions had also shown the increasing dependence of the Nawab on the military resources of the Company. Under the terms of the treaty concluded with Mir Jafar, the Company was to assist the Nawab against all his enemies, and whenever such assistance was sought the Nawab was to pay all the extraordinary charges. On the strength of this, the Nawab asked for military help when some of his troops ordered to take the field against the rebels refused to do so until the arrears of pay were cleared. As described above, Clive joined the Nawab at Rajmahal with an army of 500 Europeans and 1,500 sepoys. He, however, refused to proceed further until *parwanas* were "given by the Nabob on the Rajah of Burdawun, the Phowdsar of Hughly and the Zemindar of Ingelie for the payment of the great part of the first year's money agreed to be paid by the Nabob, account the balance due from him to the Company, navy, army and sufferers".⁶⁹ The Nawab had to yield, though the money he had to pay for the maintenance of the Company's troops, together with the sums he already owed to the Company, was leading the country into bankruptcy. Apart from this his military prestige was sinking day by day owing to his increasing dependence on the Company's military forces. This, together with the decline of political power, gradually reduced the authority of the Nawab both in extent and effectiveness until he was no more than a nominal ruler.

Peace Interlude

After the restoration of order in Bihar there followed a short period of comparative peace: from May 1758 till the invasion of the Shahzada next

⁶⁷ *Bengal and Madras Papers*, vol. II, Colonel Clive's Correspondence, letter nos. 183, 188, 248 and 250.

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, letter no. 197.

⁶⁹ P. 307.

year the Nawab did not have any need for seeking the help of the Company's forces. The outstanding events during these few months in the court of Murshidabad were the overthrow of Durlabhram and the appointment of Raja Rajballabh in his place, the rise of Nandakumar to importance, and the suppression of disaffection among the troops for arrears of pay, and the dismissal of Khwajah Haji from the post of *Mir Bakhshi* and the appointment of Muhammad Khan in his place. In Calcutta these months were spent in some useful and constructive work—in raising a new army and erecting new fortifications in the place of old Fort William. The English army at Plassey, consisting of 1,000 Europeans and 2,000 sepoys, had been reduced to 450 Europeans and 1,250 sepoys by November 1757, due to excessive debauchery and unhealthy climatic conditions.⁷⁰ This loss was made up by enlisting fresh recruits in September 1758. Out of these, 500 Europeans and 2,000 sepoys were sent to the Northern Circars under Col. Forde on 9 October 1758.⁷¹ By February 1759 the Company's forces at Calcutta numbered 420 European infantry, 102 artillery and 2,000 sepoys.⁷² This small number made the Council press the Directors for augmenting their military strength. In their letter to the Secret Committee dated 31 December 1758 they wrote that there was "no other way to preserve the vast acquisitions we have made or to support our present influence but by constantly keeping a respectable force".⁷³ That influence was so great that even from the Imperial Court at Delhi the Vazir wrote to the President of the Calcutta Council either to make the *Subah* of Bengal pay the King's revenues regularly or to act as the King's *Diwan* for the provinces of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.⁷⁴

Ali Gauhar's Invasion and Clive's Second Expedition to Bihar

At this time when the Company's military strength at Calcutta was very weak came the alarming news that Shahzada Ali Gauhar, better known under his later title of Shah Alam II, who had been for sometime "in arms against his father or rather the Vizier, his father's Minister",⁷⁵ had invaded Bihar with an army of 30,000. The Shahzada had been encouraged to undertake the expedition by Balwant Singh, Raja of Benares, Sundar Singh and Pahlawan Singh of Bihar, and Kamgar Khan of Purnea. Muhammad Quli Khan of Allahabad also joined him. He had asked for the help of the Marathas, and even written to Clive to join him! To meet this threat Clive left Calcutta on 1 March 1759 with 450 Europeans and 2,500 sepoys, confident of expelling him "provided the Nabob's people keep firm to him".⁷⁶ Clive's apprehension came true. The Nawab's own troops, whose pay was in arrear and who had been suffering under a series of exactions and injustices, broke out into a state of mutiny and refused to march unless Clive would

⁷⁰ Scrafton, L., *Reflections on the Government of Indostan*, pp. 90 and 107.

⁷¹ P. 326.

⁷² Broome, Captain Arthur, *History of the Rise and Progress of the Bengal Army*, vol. I (1850), pp. 250-51. Scrafton, *op. cit.*, p. 119.

⁷³ P. 391.

⁷⁴ Pp. 392-93.

⁷⁵ P. 419.

⁷⁶ *Ibid.*

interfere and guarantee them redress and regular payment." Clive did his best to arrange an accommodation and, with Miran at the head of the greater part of the Nawab's army, started from Murshidabad on 13 March. Assuring himself of the loyalty of Ramnarayan, he reached Patna to which the Shahzada had laid siege. The arrival of Clive synchronized with the departure of the most powerful member of the confederacy, Muhammad Quli Khan, due to the capture of Allahabad by Shujaud-Daulah. That meant the collapse of the confederacy. The Shahzada abandoned the siege and was subsequently defeated by Clive on 29 March. He was reduced to such a pitiable plight that he had to beg of Clive for some money, and Clive sent him 500 gold *mohars* to enable him to pay his way back. By April the Shahzada had retreated from Bihar, and the threat of invasion was at an end. To punish those who had supported the cause of the Shahzada, Clive pressed on to the country of Pahlawan Singh and Sundar Singh in order to reduce them into submission. On 27 May, he wrote to say that the Shahzada had been a long while clear of the Nawab's dominions, that Pahlawan Singh had agreed to submit on any reasonable terms and that the other Bhojpur rajas had agreed to pay ten years' arrears of revenue to Ramnarayan.⁷⁸ Having thus cleared Bihar of all the disturbers of peace and covered himself with glory, Clive returned to Calcutta in June 1759. The Nawab, overpowered by a sense of gratitude, gave Clive the 24-Parganas as *jagir* in recognition of his services. As for the Company, the expedition led to a tightening of their financial grip over the Nawab, and military domination over his territories was complete.

Defeat of the Dutch

After the invasion of the Shahzada had been repulsed and order restored in Bihar, the Company had to face trouble from another quarter. Taking advantage of large drafts of troops sent to the Northern Circars, and possibly encouraged by an anti-British party at Murshidabad headed by Miran, the Dutch brought a "fleet of seven vessels with 300 Europeans and 600 Malay troops" to the mouth of the Hooghly and "seized various small English craft", and thus gave the English a *casus belli*. Fortunately for the English Col. Forde returned at the nick of time from the Northern Circars flushed with victory over the French, and prevented the Dutch from moving up the river Hooghly. A land engagement at Bedarraha followed on 25 November 1759, and Forde completely defeated the Dutch. Thus ended the last challenge to English supremacy in Bengal before Clive's departure for home early in 1760.

Return of Clive

In February 1760 Clive sailed for England. During his three years of service in Bengal he had achieved great things for the Company. But of all his achievements his scheme of rendering military assistance to the Nawab on a subsidiary basis, combined with his policy of affording protection to

⁷⁸ Broome, *op. cit.*, p. 252.

⁷⁹ *Public Proceedings*, 11 June 1759, vol. 1210, pp. 499-502.

his prominent chiefs and officers, contributed most to the firm establishment of British rule in Bengal. The Calcutta Council had regretfully written to the Secret Committee on 31 December 1758 that if more reinforcements did not arrive from England "so fair an opportunity of making the Company all in all in the rich kingdom of Bengal should be lost".⁷⁹ But even before the reinforcement arrived in October 1759 their ambition of being "all in all" in Bengal was well-nigh realized through the outstanding ability of Clive and the deplorable incapacity of Mir Jafar. When Clive left, the old army was, in the words of Vansittart, "found to be increased fortyfold . . . , a fortification fit to command an empire succeeded to the old fort or factory at Calcutta, and an alliance was made with the Nabob of the province by which the Company became his protectors and sole defenders of the country instead of being a factory of merchants trading under his permission and good pleasure".⁸⁰

Judging of the period as a whole one is impressed by the lack of firmness, self-confidence and discipline on the part of the Nawab's Government and the remarkable fortitude, aggressiveness and daring on the part of the Company's servants. The political atmosphere was surcharged with intrigue, avarice, treachery and double-dealing, and indeed all those vices which are associated with a corrupt and crumbling administration. In this background it is a relief to read the life and work of men like Clive and Watson. Not that they were less selfish or less intriguing, but they showed a noble disdain of all that was mean or that lacked the higher appeal of national interest. In the character of Clive one also discerns that element of dignified detachment and domineering ambition which was responsible for all his devoted service and deeds of valour in the interest of his employers.

A comparison of the attitude of the Court of Directors to the political problems of the day with the policies pursued by their servants in Bengal shows that in spite of their lapses, the servants of the Company had a better understanding of the situation in Bengal and took a more realistic view of the matters affecting the interests of the Company than the Directors. Their sole aim was to secure a firm foothold in the country, and, if possible, to attain a dominating position in the Government of the *Subah* by the entire exclusion of the French and the Dutch. Their conduct in dealing with the country Government is characterized by a fine mixture of caution and daring as well as a sense of surpassing self-confidence that triumphed over tribulations and carried them from success to success to the very pinnacle of power and prestige. Where the Directors were suspicious and hesitant, their servants never faltered. With a clear comprehension of the main issues of the situation before them, they always acted boldly with a view to promote the interests of the Company. And be it said to their credit that in spite of the numerous petty faults that the Directors pointed out, they were, in the long run, right, undeviating in their country's cause and loyal to their masters.

⁷⁹ P. 393.

⁸⁰ Vansittart, H., *Letter to the Proprietors of East India Stock*, pp. 20-21,

CONSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Calcutta Council and the Select Committee

The management of the Company's affairs in Bengal was vested, during the period under review, in a Council and a Select Committee. The latter had come into existence by the order of the Directors, dated 11 February 1756.¹ Corresponding to these two bodies there were the Court of Directors and a Secret Committee in London. When the news of the loss of Calcutta reached the Directors, they were unable to determine who was to blame among their servants in Bengal. Therefore, they vested the Government at Fort William in a President and a Council of eleven members, all named in the Court's letter. The first three in the list, Robert Clive, if in Bengal, William Watts and Major James Kilpatrick, were to act as Presidents, each for a month by rotation. The Court also named the first five persons on the list to constitute the Select Committee, and the members composing the Committee were "to preside monthly in turn as directed with respect to the general Committee".² These instructions contained in their letter dated 3 August 1757 reached Calcutta on 20 June 1758, but these were countermanded by their subsequent letter dated 11 November 1757 which also arrived the same day. By the first instructions the Government at Fort William was vested in a President and Council of eleven members, with Watts, Manningham, Becher and Holwell who headed the list and were to act as President and Governor, each for a term of four months by rotation. Clive had not been mentioned in the list, presumably on the presumption that he was no longer in Bengal. But, taking the prevailing circumstances and the eminent services of Clive into consideration, the four gentlemen nominated to be President and Governor by rotation unanimously resolved to renounce their position in favour of Clive. Clive, therefore, became the sole President and Governor from 26 June 1758, pending directions from the Court.³ At the same time the Select Committee was reconstituted with the four persons mentioned above as permanent members, and Major Kilpatrick as a fifth member to be present only when military affairs were under consideration. The four permanent members of the Select Committee were to preside over the Committee for four months by rotation as in respect of the Council.⁴

The composition of the Select Committee as laid down in November 1757 was revised by an order of the Court dated 8 March 1758, according to which Clive was added to the Committee as the chief and constant presiding member. By a subsequent order of 11 April the temporary member was taken away and the Select Committee was henceforth "to consist of five persons" only, including the President Clive. By an order of the Court dated 23 November 1759, the Committee was again reconstituted and it was to consist of "Col. Clive, if on the spot, or the President for the time being, Col. Eyre Coote, Messrs. Charles Manningham and William

¹ P. 3.² P. 4.³ P. 21.⁴ P. 5.

Frankland, if they are on the spot, Captain James Barton and Mr. P. Amyatt".⁵⁵ Vacancy or vacancies due to death or absence could be filled up "as the President for the time being and the rest of the Select Committee shall think fit".⁵⁶ The duties of the Select Committee were to be "the transacting and negotiating matters with the European and Indian powers, so far as secrecy is absolutely necessary and not otherwise". And in these matters they were to correspond with the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors.⁵⁷

The Council also underwent some changes in its composition by the orders of the Court dated 8 March, 23 March and 11 April 1758. According to these orders Clive was appointed "sole President and Governor of Fort William" with a Council of twelve members.⁵⁸ By their order dated 23 November 1759 the Court appointed Vansittart to take the place of Clive after he left for England and reduced the strength of the Council from twelve to eleven.⁵⁹ The salary of the President was fixed at Rs. 24,000/- per annum, with a personal allowance of £1,000 per annum to Clive alone in recognition of his distinguished services.⁶⁰ The duties of the Council comprised "ordering, governing and managing all the Company's affairs at Fort William in Bengal and all its dependent places and settlements, with as full power and authority as the Presidents and Councils of Bengal have been usually invested with".⁶¹

The Court of Directors and the Secret Committee

Above the Council and the Select Committee at Fort William there were the Court of Directors and the Secret Committee in London. The Court consisted of 24 members, annually elected by the General Court of Proprietors from among those who held at least £2,000 of the Company's stock. The Secret Committee was formed annually by the Court from among its members. During the period under review, it consisted of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Court and two or three other members. Letters from the Court dated 27 April 1757, 3 August 1757, and 1 November 1758, refer to three additional members, and letter dated 23 November 1759, to two additional members, of the Select Committee.⁶² Three members were to be present to form the quorum.⁶³ The Court was the general executive body, while the Secret Committee disposed of matters requiring special attention and secrecy. The powers of these two bodies *vis-a-vis* the Council and the Select Committee at Fort William were complete and absolute, subject to the bye-laws, regulations etc. of the Court of Proprietors. As regards the authority vested in the Secret Committee, the Court of Directors ordered, "All instructions, orders and directions, this Committee or the

⁵⁵ P. 169.

⁵⁶ P. 108.

⁵⁷ Pp. 53-54.

⁵⁸ Pp. 99, 106-07.

⁵⁹ P. 170.

⁶⁰ P. 100.

⁶¹ P. 52.

⁶² Pp. 34, 41, 114 & 162.

⁶³ P. 162.

Committee for the time being shall at any time think proper to send, must be duly observed and complied with by each and every person or persons to whom they are directed."⁹⁴

Attitude of the Court towards the Council and the Servants of the Company in Bengal

The Court in its relations with the Council and their servants in general was vigilant, suspicious and critical. A few instances will bear this out. When the Directors got information that two of their servants "of considerable rank actually received from Kissendass upwards Rs. 50,000 for our protecting his person against Suraja Doulah", they called it a piece of "villainy", and ordered a strict and immediate inquiry giving the matter priority over every other concern of the Council.⁹⁵ After a proper enquiry the Council, however, found that the charge was baseless.⁹⁶ On another occasion with a view to maintaining effective control over the disbursement of the Restitution Money, they directed the Council to furnish "exact accounts of every person's losses, whether English or other inhabitants, in the late capture of Fort William, and what has been paid to each of them, in particular, by way of indemnification for the same out of the moneys granted by the Nabob for that purpose".⁹⁷ In the matter of purchasing saltpetre from Omichand they suspected there was some "sinister affair very materially affecting your characters as well as the Company's interests", and ordered the Council to explain their conduct "by the first opportunity".⁹⁸ They were amazed that their settlement in Bengal should be of so little profit to the Company, and they attributed it to "the luxurious, expensive and idle manner of life, which has too much prevailed for many years before the late calamity among all ranks of our servants, the genuine [general] effects of which have been inattention and negligence in most and dishonesty in many".⁹⁹ They were very critical of the conduct of their junior servants who often lived beyond their means in trying to maintain a standard nearly resembling that of their seniors, although their salaries ranged from £20 to £40 only a year. They rightly observed that "the indigence of our junior servants may too often be the effect of their vices and imitation of their seniors". Therefore, they ordered "that no writer, whatsoever, be permitted to keep either palankeen, horse or chaise during his writership, on pain of being immediately dismissed from our service".¹⁰⁰

The Directors often felt dissatisfied with, and passed severe strictures on, the general conduct of administration in Bengal. "The settlement of Calcutta has long wanted a reform in almost every branch," they wrote on 3 March 1758, "and disobedience to our orders, the practice for some years past. This, together with gross omissions and a total inattention to business,

⁹⁴ P. 162.

⁹⁵ P. 157.

⁹⁶ P. 453.

⁹⁷ P. 103.

⁹⁸ P. 137.

⁹⁹ P. 56.

¹⁰⁰ Pp. 81-82.

had [have] thrown our affairs into great confusion and that you may be convinced we are not too severe in our assertions, we shall here instance a few facts and many others will follow in the course of these remarks. For these eight years no records of Quarter Sessions have been transmitted us, nor the remarkable trial of Mr. MacGwire for the mangling of Mr. Plaistead. . . . The registers of appeals have not been much better conducted and those with the Mayor's Court Registers often omitted. To add more is unnecessary."¹⁰¹ Later on, in the course of the letter, they observed, "The Secretary's office has . . . been very badly managed; your consultations for several years past wrote in such a vile manner as not to be legible: in many places indexes often omitted; the registers . . . either not punctually kept up or transmitted us. In short the business in every branch at your settlement has been conducted in such a loose and negligent manner as to reflect shame on those in trust with our affairs. You our Governour and Council must set the example of order, method and application."¹⁰² On one occasion, when the Council failed to send any report of their activities for the period of one month that elapsed between the drafting of their letter and the departure of a foreign ship carrying it, they observed, "From the lights at present before us there appears such flagrant instances of weak management, such gross neglects of our interest, that were the facts properly established would oblige us to animadvert on your conduct in the severest terms."¹⁰³ Besides, in the matter of accounts, they detected irregularities; in matters of contract, they discovered fraud; and naturally they were dissatisfied and suspicious. Referring to an irregularity detected by the auditors in respect of bills of exchange involving Rs. 29,744-11-3, they wrote, "This matter must be fully explained to us, as we cannot, at present, see it in any other light than as a great irregularity in your accounts."¹⁰⁴ Of the "plunder and booty taken from the late Nabob and from the French", they did not find any satisfactory account in the consultations of the Bengal Council.¹⁰⁵ Again, when yielding to pressure the Council paid to the army and the navy an advance of prize-money amounting to Rs. 26,24,484-6-0 in part payment of fifty lacs which Mir Jafar had promised them as a reward, the Directors were furious. In the first place the Nawab had not paid the stipulated sum, and in the second place the Council had not taken the Directors' permission to make the payment. Consequently the Directors disapproved of their action and censured them, more particularly because the "treasury was drained", and the Council was soon after reduced to "the necessity of borrowing". On the top of this, the Council had drawn bills on the Company in England to the amount of Rs. 14,47,472-5-0, which the Company could not conveniently pay. Resenting this bitterly the Directors wrote, "How cruel, how barbarous then, was this conduct and usage to employers who have lately treated many of you with the greatest lenity and indulgence."¹⁰⁶

The Bengal Council generally received these censures with the utmost forbearance. It was only when the Directors, in their letter of 23 March

¹⁰¹ P. 72.

¹⁰² P. 78.

¹⁰³ Pp. 113-14.

¹⁰⁴ P. 26.

¹⁰⁵ P. 141.

¹⁰⁶ P. 146.

1759 referred to above, showered upon them a volley of censures, unusual in their asperity, that they lodged a strong protest. They wrote, "The diction of your letter is most unworthy [of] yourselves; and us in whatever relations considered, either as masters to servants or gentlemen to gentlemen. Mere inadvertencies and casual neglects arising from an unavoidable and most complicated confusion in the state of your affairs has been treated in such language and sentiments as nothing but the most glaring and premeditated frauds could warrant. Groundless informations have without further scrutiny bore with you the stamp of truth, though proceeding from those who had therein obviously their own purpose to serve, no matter at whose expence. These have received from you such countenance and encouragement as must, most assuredly, tend to cool the warmest zeal of your servants here and everywhere else."¹⁰⁷ The members of the Council paid dearly for this protest, for the Court ordered the dismissal from the Company's service of all those who had subscribed to it.¹⁰⁸

The Company as Zamindar

From 1698 onwards the Company held the zamindari of Calcutta, Sutanati and Govindapur on an annual rent of Rs. 1,194-14-5, to be paid to the Nawab of Bengal. They enjoyed the right of collecting rents from the ryots, and of imposing petty taxes, duties and fines, and exercised certain civil and criminal jurisdiction. The Company's servant in charge of these functions was called the Zamindar, and in 1700 the designation was changed into Collector. His Indian assistant was called the Black Collector. In 1750 the Directors appointed J. Z. Holwell as their "perpetual Zamindar" and a member of the Council. He had promised to "increase their revenues double to what former Zamindars had done", which had "seldom or ever exceeded 60,000 rupees per annum". To gain his object he "set out with converting most bodily punishments into fines", and also made use of *ettack* to increase the revenues.¹⁰⁹

In judicial matters there often arose conflicts between the Zamindar and the Mayor's Court in regard to their respective jurisdictions. The Zamindar, "not being satisfied with the unlimited power he was already invested with", claimed jurisdiction over every Portuguese and Armenian and all those who were not born of European parents. But the Mayor's Court maintained that "only such as were born and looked on as Moghul's subjects" were excluded from their jurisdiction.¹¹⁰ There is a reference to such a dispute in the letter from the Court of Directors to the Council, dated 25 March 1757, paras. 129-36.¹¹¹

On 14 April 1757, the Council, realizing the "very complicated nature" of the Zamindar's office, divided it into four distinct branches. The first branch was the Zamindar's office, whose function was the collection of

¹⁰⁷ Pp. 465-66.

¹⁰⁸ *Letter from Court to Fort William Council*, 21 January 1761.

¹⁰⁹ Hill, *op. cit.*, vol. I, p. 267.

¹¹⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 273-74.

¹¹¹ Pp. 28-29.

ground-rents, octrois, Company's revenues from farms, etc. The second branch was the office of the Clerk of the Market, "who was to regulate the price of provisions and stamp the weights, measures, etc". Thirdly, there was "an *Aridge Duckle* Court for hearing and determining all disputes of *Meum* and *Tuum* between the natives before cognizable by the Zamindar". And, lastly, there was the *Cutcherry* "for taking cognizance of matters and disputes of a criminal nature". The last mentioned courts were, in the beginning, composed of a member of the Board and five junior servants of the Company, and the members of the Board undertook the duties of the courts by rotation. This system was tried for three months, but "as the fluctuating state of the office delayed the business and rendered the decisions tedious", it was decided that the Zamindar, and in his absence the Deputy Zamindar, should always preside over these courts.¹¹²

On 3 March 1758 the Court of Directors ordered certain changes to be introduced in the judicial administration, which are succinctly described in paras. 96-100 of the letter. In brief, differences and disputes between castes, hitherto adjudged by the Zamindar, were now to be heard by arbitrators appointed by the Governor, and the opinions tendered by them were to be confirmed by the Governor "with such fines as he shall judge proper". The fines imposed were to be paid to the injured party and no part of it was to be taken to the Company's credit. In cases wherein the fines imposed exceeded Rs. 200, there was to be a right of appeal to the President in Council. All disputes as between natives concerning property of the value of Rs. 20 and above, and all other civil cases hitherto under the Court of the *Cutcherry*, were to be tried by a bench of five persons, composed of Company's servants below the rank of a member of Council. In all cases where the property in dispute was worth over hundred rupees, there was to be a right of appeal to the President in Council. Criminal cases, both in respect of Indians and Europeans, were to be tried by Justices of the Peace; but when trying Indians they were to be styled Zamindars. There was to be a right of appeal to a bench of three Justices, which was to meet thrice a week.¹¹³ The plan put forward by the Court was adopted with certain alterations in matters of detail.¹¹⁴

Revenue and Customs

In their letter dated 3 March 1758 the Court of Directors ordered the abolition of the tax on marriages, fishing boats etc., and of the practice of farming certain *bazars* and markets. They fixed the general customs on both imports and exports at 4 per cent leaving the Council at Fort William the discretion to charge more or less on particular commodities. They ordered the establishment of two custom houses with two Custom Masters. The principal custom house was to be established by the river side and all sea imports and exports were to be collected there, and the head of the office was to be called Sea Custom Master. The other custom house

¹¹² Pp. 282-83.

¹¹³ Pp. 73-75.

¹¹⁴ P. 363.

was to be established at the extremity of the Company's bounds as contiguous to the Grand Trunk Road as possible, and at this post duties were to be levied on all goods introduced into Calcutta or sent out to other parts of India. The head of this post was to be designated Land Custom Master. To prevent smuggling, the Court ordered guard boats to patrol the river every night, and on land European guards were to go their rounds from ten at night to five in the morning throughout their boundaries.¹¹⁵ All these regulations were adopted by the Council, except that in respect of certain commodities they fixed the customs duty at 2 per cent instead of 4 per cent as ordered by the Court.¹¹⁶

Police and Military Establishments

With regard to the military and police establishments, the Directors abolished *paiks*, *baksaris* (Indian matchlockmen), *kotwals*, etc., and fixed the military contingent at 500 Europeans and 500 Indians, with the provision that the number of Indians might be increased at the discretion of the Council. The Collector, the Custom Masters, the *Bakhshi*, the Warehouse Keepers and other officers were to have the services of Indian soldiers to the extent of their requirements, and their services were to be utilised also for guarding the subordinate factories. They were to be changed every month for purposes of discipline. Although they were to obey the particular officers whom they served for the time being, they were to remain under the command of the Company's chief military officer, and to defend the settlement of Calcutta in time of need.¹¹⁷ The strength of the army was substantially augmented by fresh recruitment later on and by the arrival of a King's battalion of nearly 1,000 men and officers under Col. Coote in 1759.¹¹⁸ Towards the end of 1759 there was an army of 1,200 Europeans and 7,500 sepoys.¹¹⁹

The capture of Calcutta by Sirajud-Daulah had been rendered easy partly by lack of proper supervision over military stores—there was at the time of the attack only 700 maunds of gunpowder, one-third of which could not be used.¹²⁰ There was, therefore, need for reform in this direction. The Court of Directors ordered a standing committee composed of the Major, Engineer, Storekeeper, and Gunner to be formed to test gunpowder, which was to be manufactured locally.¹²¹ Another Committee composed of the Major, Engineer, and Master Attendant was also to be established to examine the general defences of the settlement every three months or oftener. They were "to examine and survey our magazines, the fortifications, ramparts, guns, carriages, platforms, arms, granary, in short, take under their consideration and inspection even the most minute articles, and constantly to remark to the Board all defects and deficiencies".¹²²

¹¹⁵ Pp. 75-76.

¹¹⁶ P. 445.

¹¹⁷ Pp. 78-79.

¹¹⁸ P. 127.

¹¹⁹ Vansittart, H., *Letter to the Proprietors of the East India Stock*, p. 18.

¹²⁰ Letter from Mr. Roger Drake Junior to Council, Fort William, dated 17-25 January 1757. Hill, *op. cit.*, vol. II, p. 151.

¹²¹ P. 59.

¹²² P. 112.

Marine Establishment

The marine establishment of the Company was of great importance. As its management was not very satisfactory, the Directors made the following regulations: (i) The Master Attendant was to be the head of this branch assisted by the Deputy Master Attendant. Pilots were to be under the immediate orders of the former and, in his absence, of his Deputy. The Master Attendant was to get all the Company's vessels repaired, and keep a diary of all the vessels coming in and going out. He was to address the Board of Directors annually, and to be very particular as to the condition of the marine, the docks and the yards, and of all matters relating to his department. He was to go down the river as often as he judged it necessary and to report his observations to the Board. He could entertain and dismiss officers and sailors below the rank of pilots, subject to the control of the Council. (ii) All marine stores were to be under a store-keeper and kept in a separate warehouse properly. Fresh stores were to be purchased only when the Master Attendant certified that they were necessary.¹²³

Mint Establishment

In 1717 John Surman had obtained a *farman* from Emperor Farrukhsiyar which, among other things, granted the Company the right to establish a mint. But due to the unfavourable attitude of the Subahdars, they could not establish one in Bengal until Sirajud-Daulah granted them the privilege by the treaty of 9 February 1757. Thereupon they procured people from Murshidabad who could work a mint and also appointed a committee consisting of Frankland and Boddam "to assay the fineness of the silver for the *sicca* standard, to ascertain the charge of coining, the method of conducting the mint to the greatest advantage for the Company".¹²⁴ On 4 July 1757 the Committee informed the Board that they had coined four thousand *siccas* from Mexico dollar bullion, but further progress was held up owing to the revolution which led to the overthrow of Sirajud-Daulah. After Mir Jafar had confirmed the privilege it was decided to conduct the management of the mint on the Madras pattern, according to which the Company was to levy a duty of 5 per thousand on all coins struck in the mint for private parties, who were to pay in addition 20 per thousand as the charge of coinage and 10 more to the Mint Undertaker for his trouble. The Company's bullion was to be charged the net expenses of coinage only. Frankland and Boddam were appointed Mint Masters or Undertakers. Specimen *siccas* were sent to Murshidabad for approval. After they were approved the Nawab announced by beat of drums, and the principal *shroffs* gave assurance by a *muchalka*, that the Company's *siccas* "shall be received the same as Muxadavad *siccas*". In order to test the force of the Nawab's orders and proclamation, 80,000 *siccas* were sent to Cossimbazar for investment.¹²⁵ By their order of 3 March 1758 the Court ordered

¹²³ Pp. 85-89.

¹²⁴ P. 274.

¹²⁵ Pp. 274-75.

certain drastic changes in the management of the mint. It was to be worked on the basis of contract, and the contract was to be given preferably to a number of "families of opulence and character" who would pool their resources for the purpose. A Mint Master was to be chosen from among the Company's servants below Council rank. He was to receive all bullion and permit delivery of coined money. A duty of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on the contractor's prices was to be collected on all the silver that was minted and it was to be distributed as follows: one per cent to the Company, $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to the Mint Master, and one per cent to the Governor for the time being. The duty to be levied on the coinage of gold was left to the discretion of the Council. Bullion brought into Calcutta was to be minted in the Company's mint only. If anybody wanted it to be minted elsewhere he was to take the bullion out only after paying a duty of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.¹²⁶

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Investment was the most important concern of the Company, though we have chosen to deal with it at the end. The subject may be dealt with from two points of view: first the method or manner of investment, and secondly, the value of investment.

With regard to the method of investment the Directors, in their letter of 3 March 1758, wrote that they were satisfied with the "provision of investment in and about Calcutta by *gumashtahs* on the plan which subsisted before the troubles", and asked the Council to encourage weavers to settle in and around Calcutta and in the 38 villages of their zamindari.¹²⁷ In the mofussil goods were directly purchased for ready money at the *aurangs* through the Company's *gumashtahs* and sorted and classed at the *kotha* or the Company's godown before being dispatched to Calcutta for shipment. This system was being followed since the abolition of the *dadney* system, according to which a part of the value of the goods to be purchased was advanced to the brokers and the rest of it paid when the goods were delivered. The Directors, while approving of the direct ready-money purchase and *kotha* system, strictly enjoined, "In future when any purchases are to be made for ready money and the goods to be purchased are sorted for prization, or comparing with the musters . . . as many gentlemen as can be collected of the Council and even the President . . . do attend the *cottah* on that service and carefully inspect the assorting such goods for the better fixing the real value thereof."¹²⁸ They ordered a reduction of expenses at the subordinate factories, required that a smaller number of covenanted servants should transact business there at a moderate allowance, and strictly forbade "the least parade of soldiers, fortifications or even the appearance of military strength."¹²⁹ The servants of the Company were allowed the benefit of private trade "provided it does not prejudice the Company, which we shall leave to your care and prudence to judge of and restrain whenever you find

¹²⁶ Pp. 79-80.

¹²⁷ P. 60.

¹²⁸ P. 61.

¹²⁹ *Ibid.*

occasion for it."¹³⁰ The Directors considered that the deputation of a few junior servants to the different cloth *aurangs* annually by rotation would prove beneficial and recommended it to the Council.¹³¹ They ordered the stationing of a Chief, a Second and two writers at each of the factories at Cossimbazar, Dacca and Lakshmipur, and a Resident and a writer at Balasore.¹³²

To these orders the Council suggested certain modifications based on experience. As regards the ready-money purchase system they wrote that they had been obliged "to permit our people to advance the weavers a trifle on their former prices and to be less strict in the prising of their cloth in order to procure the full of your orders".¹³³ With regard to sending junior servants by rotation to the *aurangs*, they observed that the scheme, though salutary, could not be adopted unless they had a larger number of servants, and therefore they postponed it for some time.¹³⁴ With regard to conducting their business at Cossimbazar the Company's agents there considered the following more advantageous: "First, that three *gumashtahs* be appointed for the provision of silk piece goods. Next, that three others be sent to the *aurangs* where *gurrahs* were manufactured for the provision of that article. Thirdly, that either a warehouse be built at Puddapar with proper conveniences for carrying on the silk business or that an order be procured from the Nabob to forbid any silk being wound off on that side of the river."¹³⁵ The above suggestions were acceptable to the Council at Calcutta, but they considered it inadvisable to make any public application to the Nawab for an order to interdict the *sardars* to wind off silk at their own houses. The Company's agents at Cossimbazar, therefore, entered into an agreement with the Dutch and other principal merchants of the place to the effect "that none should in future give any silk to be wound off by the *sardars* at their own houses".¹³⁶

The Directors did not turn down these suggestions, but they insisted on the business at the subordinates being conducted "on the frugal plans" laid down in their letter of 3 March 1758, and noted with satisfaction that the Company's transactions were "gradually arising from confusion into some order and method".¹³⁷

With regard to the value and variety of investment, much depended upon the political condition of the country. Writing on 20 August 1757 the Council complained, "Hitherto we have not been able to make any great progress in the investment of this season. The delay made by the late Nabob in performing his treaty and returning our goods seized by his orders, the apprehensions we were under of a fresh rupture, and the want of sufficiency of cash to supply to *aurangs* with any large sums of money, were all of them so many impediments to our commencing the provisions of our

¹³⁰ *Ibid.*

¹³¹ P. 62.

¹³² P. 61.

¹³³ P. 334.

¹³⁴ P. 335.

¹³⁵ P. 336.

¹³⁶ *Ibid.*

¹³⁷ P. 138.

investment."¹³⁸ The following table¹³⁹ will, however, give an idea of the investment for 1757, mostly for cloth through the *gumashtahs*.

Santipore	Rs. 1,68,500	Golaghar	Rs. 20,800
Katra	Rs. 64,000	Buran	Rs. 1,04,800
Khirpai	Rs. 2,48,675	Sonamukhi	Rs. 1,01,220
Malda	Rs. 3,52,450	Haripal	Rs. 1,54,645
Harial	Rs. 3,11,970	Calcutta	Rs. 1,69,720
Buddal	Rs. 71,670		

The *gumashtahs* at these *aurangs* were supplied with certain amounts of money between September and December 1757. By November 1757 Dacca was supplied with one lakh of rupees, and the factory at Patna, restarted the same year, was supplied with a lakh also.¹⁴⁰ Cossimbazar gradually assumed its normal activities after the revolution. Figures for Balasore, Lakshmipur and Jugdea are not given, but mention is made of certain amounts of money invested there.

For the years 1758 and 1759 investment figures of factories only are available, and these are as given below:

	1758 ¹⁴¹	1759 ¹⁴²
Patna	... C.Rs. 2,12,432 14 0	... C.Rs. 2,07,307 7 3
Dacca	... C.Rs. 4,67,050 0 0	... C.Rs. 1,59,603 14 3
Lakshmipur	... C.Rs. 32,775 0 0	... C.Rs. 1,66,185 0 0
Balasore	... C.Rs. 75,330 0 0	
	and 100 gold <i>mohurs</i>	... C.Rs. 10,942 7 6
Cossimbazar	... C.Rs. 9,23,353 12 9	
	and 5 gold <i>mohurs</i>	... C.Rs. 8,59,674 10 9

Since the table does not give the full amounts invested, it may be taken as roughly indicative of only the approximate volume of investment for the years. It is seen from a letter to the Court dated 27 February 1758 that the *gumashtahs* and subordinates were supplied with Rs. 17,87,423-10-3 and goods to the value of Rs. 12,72,721-9-3.¹⁴³ In 1759 owing to the undisputed prestige and power attained by the Company, larger investments were secured than for some years before.¹⁴⁴

In all these places the Company purchased cotton or silk goods. Cossimbazar was the chief centre for silk. The Directors were not satisfied with the quality of silk cloth produced, and in their letter of 25 March 1757 they wrote, "The faults complained of have been many, but the principal has been that in the same skein it is common for the silk to run part of it single, part double, treble and even quadruple, all which should run single; the manner of its being sent has been in bales, the fineness of which was always intended to be particularized by their being marked with the letters A, B, C, D, E, the

¹³⁸ P. 241.

¹³⁹ P. 267.

¹⁴⁰ Pp. 271-72.

¹⁴¹ Pp. 338-39.

¹⁴² P. 441.

¹⁴³ P. 311.

¹⁴⁴ P. 414.

first the finest and so progressively to the E, the coarsest; but it now perpetually happens that there is not that regard to the letters which there should be, and which was formerly, it being very common to have many of the bales of the fine letters coarser than those of the inferior letters and some D and E finer than B and C."¹⁴⁵ One Richard Wilder, a silk expert, was sent by the Court from England to instruct the silk winders so that such complaints did not recur.

Different varieties of silk, which were generally known by the place of their origin, are referred to in the correspondence: Rangpur, Kumarkhali, Radhanagar, Guzarat, etc. Sometimes descriptions such as Novemberbund Sortment are used to indicate the period of winding on which depended the quality of the silk produced. As regards cotton goods there were the *dorias*, *tanzebs*, *kashidas*, *sannoos*, *baftas*, etc. Cotton goods received from Dacca and Lakshmipur in 1758 and 1759 were regarded as "extremely good", while those received from Patna as of a "very inferior quality". Both cotton and silk goods received from Cossimbazar, Kumarkhali and Radhanagar were of high quality. It is mentioned that silk goods known as *rumali*, *ihilmili* and *saifur* "were very good and superior".¹⁴⁶ Radhanagar silk was strong and even and was expected to make an impression in Europe.¹⁴⁷

Besides cotton and silk goods, there are frequent references to the supply of stick-lac, red-wood and opium, the latter intended for the China market.¹⁴⁸

Saltpetre was one of the most important articles of investment as it was needed for manufacturing gunpowder. At the beginning of the period under review, Khwajah Wajid held the monopoly, the entire quantity of saltpetre being obtained from Bihar. In 1756 the Dutch had tried to purchase the monopoly but had failed. The Fort William Council was anxious to secure the monopoly, because of the importance of the article, and the great demand for it both from the other Presidencies and the Court of Directors, the latter being, under the terms of the Charter, required to supply 500 tons of saltpetre every year to the British Government.¹⁴⁹ During the Patna expedition of Mir Jafar (December 1757 to July 1758), Clive took advantage of the prevailing circumstances and persuaded the Nawab to grant the monopoly to the Company in perpetuity. On their success in obtaining the monopoly the Fort William Council wrote, "We have reason to believe that nothing but his fear of the English, and the assistance he might have occasion to demand of us in case of any exigency, induced him to comply with our petition for that grant." Under the terms of the agreement the Company was to pay annually Rs. 15,000 to the Nawab and Rs. 10,000 to Ramnarayan, and also deliver every year 20,000 maunds of saltpetre to the Nawab for his own use.¹⁵⁰

Large quantities of saltpetre were regularly supplied to Madras and Bombay and also to England.¹⁵¹ The importance of this article in the

¹⁴⁵ Pp. 31-32.

¹⁴⁶ Pp. 336-37 & 440-41.

¹⁴⁷ P. 242.

¹⁴⁸ Pp. 240, 271 & 440.

¹⁴⁹ P. 50.

¹⁵⁰ P. 339.

¹⁵¹ Pp. 240, 308-09, 325, 329 & 439.

triumph of the English over the French in the South is seen from the following observations of the Select Committee in their letter to the Court dated 31 December 1758: "The plenty of money and provisions with which we can at all times supply the gentlemen at Madras will enable them to carry any of their designs whereas the total want the French are in of both and without any visible means of redress renders it almost impossible for them to undertake anything of moment . . . Over and above this want of money we are well assured there is a great scarcity of gunpowder among them and this is an article they have little hopes of being relieved in except from here, as we have the whole of the saltpetre in our hands."¹⁵²

We may also make a passing reference to the goods imported into Bengal during this period. These goods consisted mostly of woollens, carpets, broad-cloth, copper, lead, iron and Madeira wine. With the increase in the number of Europeans in Calcutta and other settlements in Bengal, the demand for Madeira wine also began to increase. Before the revolution in Bengal woollen goods did not sell well, and the Directors expressed their great disappointment.¹⁵³ After the revolution the Company's servants, backed by the influence and authority which they enjoyed, made special efforts to increase the sale of these goods in Bengal, and the expulsion of the French also helped them much. The Court of Directors, in their letter dated 23 March 1759, expressed their satisfaction at the attention paid by the Fort William Council to promote the sale of woollen goods and also "to encrease the vend of copper and other staple commodities by sending them to Patna, Cuttack, and other places".¹⁵⁴ From the Court's letter dated 23 November 1759, it is seen that "near 1,000 bales of cloth, 50 bales of long ells, 250 tons of copper, 40 tons of iron and 5 tons of steel" were expected to be sent to Bengal, and there was more cloth in this consignment than was ever sent to that Presidency.¹⁵⁵

¹⁵² Pp. 390-91.

¹⁵³ P. 12.

¹⁵⁴ P. 136.

¹⁵⁵ Pp. 165-66.

LETTERS FROM COURT

LETTER DATED 25 MARCH 1757

War declared against France on 18 May 1756—Personnel of Secret Committee—Shipping news—Export of lead, wine, copper, and woollen goods—Importance of saltpetre—Abuse of dastaks—Conditions in Calcutta—Appointment of Company's servants—Dispute between Mayor's Court and Holwell—Admiralty Court regulation—East Indies squadron—A sericulturist sent to Bengal.

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

shall think proper to issue them, in as full and ample a manner as if they were signed by the Court of Directors for the time being. The gentlemen who compose the Secret Committee under the present direction are Peter Godfrey, John Payne, Christopher Burrow, Roger Drake and Jones Raymond, Esquires, the two first named gentlemen being the present Chairman and Deputy Chairman to the Court.

6. Before we proceed to give you the necessary informations and directions in the usual method, we must premise that the many difficultys and embarrasments attending the late arrival of our shipping in general, together with those arising from the present situation of publick affairs, unavoidably prevent our being so full in this letter as we could wish; the greater therefore must be our confidence in and dependance upon your good conduct and management, and we hope your good sence, animated by a dutiful zeal to serve the Company, will supply the defect of particular instruction in every instance that comes before you of any material consequences.

First, of shipping

7. The names and destination of the several ships taken into the Company's service this season are as follows:

Ships		Tons		
<i>Onslow</i>	...	499	Thomas Hinde	} St. Helena and China
<i>Sandwich</i>	...	499	John Purling	
<i>Triton</i>	...	499	Francis Harris	
<i>Boscawen</i>	...	499	Benjamin Braund	} China directly
<i>Norfolk</i>	...	499	Pinson Bonham	
<i>Tavistock</i>	...	499	Benjamin Jenkins	
<i>Princess Augusta</i>	...	499	Thomas Baddison	
<i>Falmouth</i>	...	499	James Dale	} Fort St. George & China
<i>Warwick</i>	...	499	Nicholas Webb	
<i>Ilchester</i>	...	499	John Tedd	} St. Helena and Bencoolen
<i>Worcester</i>	...	499	Edward Tiddeman	
<i>Grantham</i>	...	499	John Oliver	
<i>Fox</i>	...	499	Alexander Hume	} Madeira & Coast and Bay
<i>Elizabeth</i>	...	499	Robert Burdett	
<i>Prince Edward</i>	...	499	James Haldane	} Coast and Bay
<i>Hawke</i>	...	499	Richard Drake	
<i>Latham</i>	...	499	John Foot	} Persia and Bombay
<i>York</i>	...	499	Peter Lascelles	
<i>Lord Anson</i>	...	499	Edward Lord Chick	

8. Besides which we purchased a vessel for an advice boat and called her the *Prince Henry* packet, and have given the command of her to Captain John Mumford. She sailed from the Downes as has been beforementioned on the 5th of August last for Fort St. George, on purpose to give notice of the war with France.

9. The ship *Onslow* for St. Helena and Limpao in China sailed from Spithead on the 3rd of December.

10. The *Sandwich* and *Triton* for Canton directly with the whole

consignment of woollen goods intended for that market this season, the *Boscawen*, *Norfolk*, *Tavistock* and *Princess Augusta* for Fort St. George and Canton, the *Warwick* for Madeira and the Coast and Bay, together with the *Falmouth* for St. Helena and the west coast of Sumatra, were all dispatched from hence on the 1st of January, but having suffered a long detention from contrary winds and unavoidable incidents, they did not sail from England on their respective voyages until the times mentioned in the accompanying list.

11. The ships *Ilchester*, *Worcester*, *Grantham*, *Fox* and *Elizabeth* for the Coast and Bay, with the *Prince Edward* for Persia and Bombay, are now under their dispatches, by the first five of which you will receive this letter.

12. The *Hawke*, *Latham*, *York* and *Lord Anson* for Bombay will be dispatched about the 25th of March.

13. The supracargos appointed to transact the Company's affairs in China are viz.,

For the ships *Sandwich* and *Triton* Messrs. Thomas Liell, Henry Revell, Mann Horner and Robert John Harrison.

For the *Boscawen* and *Princess Augusta* Messrs. Thomas Thomson, Hillary Torriano, John Mapletoft and William Feake.

For the *Norfolk* and *Tavistock* Messrs. Mordecai Walker, Nathaniel Garland, Thomas Sandys and Thomas Smith.

For the *Royal Duke*, expected at Canton from the Malabar Coast, Messrs. Liell, Thomson, Walker, Torriano and Garland.

For the *Onslow* Mr. Samuel Blount, who proceeds on her from England, and Mr. James Flint now in China.

For such ship or ships as shall or may arrive at Canton in the year 1757 from any of the Company's settlement in India, other than those beforementioned, Messrs. Liell, Thomson, Walker and Smith.

14. We send as usual a list of the arrival and departure of the Company's shipping, in the former of which you will observe the *Denham* from Bengal and the *Earl of Holderness* from Limpao close the rear, being the only ships we had to expect, and although the late arrival of our ships in general has greatly embarrassed us, yet we must think the Company extremely happy in the return of such a number without any attack from the enemy.

15. The freighters of silver, coral and other licensed trade have executed the usual agreement that if any ship or ships on which such articles are laden shall proceed to Bengal without touching at Fort St. George, or on the other hand arrive at Fort St. George and do not proceed to Bengal, that the President and Council at either place may forward the same agreeable to the original consignment on any of our European ships at the risque of the said freighters, but without any further charge to them. Although this is only a repetition of the annual and customary clause, yet under the present circumstance of a French war it may require your more particular notice.

16. The commanders of many of the ships arrived the last season having kept us in a long suspense by keeping their packets on board until sent for, you are therefore in future upon the dispatch of every ship to give positive orders to the commander that, immediately upon his arrival at any port in Great Britain or Ireland, he is to send his packets to us under the care of an officer

he can confide in, we mean all the packets he is entrusted with, book packets excepted which may be kept on board as usual until his arrival in the river Thames; if their bulk is such as will render the bringing them up very inconvenient, the packets which contain your advices and the usual and necessary papers must, for the conveniency of carriage, be made up by themselves or at least be as little encumbered as possible by the addition of private letters or any thing else which may too much encrease their bulk.

17. Upon some late disputes with the owners of our shipping, we have found it highly necessary to make a small but very material alteration in the charterparty, to which we particularly refer, wherein you will find that instead of the word *monsoon* that of *passage* is substituted with the addition of *the ships making all reasonable attempts to get about the Cape of Good Hope so as to gain her passage home the same season*. We had always looked upon the words "saving the monsoon" and "getting the passage about the Cape of Good Hope the same season" to be sinonomous terms, and meaning the same thing, until a late verdict given in the Court of King's Bench in the case of the ship *Scarborough* has shewn to our cost that the law determines otherways, for according this verdict a ship may lose her monsoon, that is the North East wind may be actually spent, and yet she may gain her passage, notwithstanding which the owners would be entitled by law to the four months' demorage if not dispatched on or before the 31th January old stile.

18. Although by this alteration we are put on a more equitable footing, as you may deliver dispatches to the commanders whenever you are ready, we do not mean thereby to distress the owners, and we most earnestly recommend it to you for the future to use your best endeavours to give as early dispatches as possible to every ship that comes from your Presidency, that even the hazard of losing a passage may be avoided, as well as the damage the cargoes often receive from bad weather in rounding the Cape, the consequence[s] of late dispatches.

19. You were advised in our letter of the 11th of February 1756 that we had revived the encouragement therein mentioned for the commanders to endeavour to get about the Cape of Good Hope if dispatched from Fort St. George or Bengal after the 3rd of March. Upon the beforementioned alteration in the charterparty it has been again laid aside and consequently the clause is left out of the instructions.

20. You will observe we have inserted a new clause in all our commanders' instructions to prevent their making use of their letters of marque¹ otherwise than for their defence in case they are first attacked, to prevent as much as possible enterprizing people endangering our property, and embroiling us with the country Governments in India. This instruction, however, is not by any means meant to invalidate the stipulations in the charterparty as to the right the Company have to employ the ship as well in a warlike manner as in affairs of commerce; and you are accordingly to insist upon such right, notwithstanding any objections which may be raised to the contrary.

21. We are sorry to say we have been informed of very great remissness in our pilots during the last war, which had it sooner come to our knowledge we should have resented in a proper manner. We understand it was a common practice with them to look out for any thing they could meet with in

Ballasore Road, or otherways, to get the charge of any foreign or country ships which first came in their way, for which they demanded and received an exorbitant price. By these means our ships, which at that season were daily expected to arrive, were totally neglected, insomuch that our commanders have been obliged to put a confidence in and trust the care of their ships to an enemy's pilot. We therefore direct that you give strict orders to our pilots, that some of them do constantly keep on their proper stations off Point Palmiras at the season our ships are expected until they all arrive and carefully attend upon them until they are safe at their moorings.

22. When any of His Majesty's ships leave India they will, we imagine, touch either at Madagascar or the Cape of Good Hope, perhaps at both. If any of them take their departure from Bengal, we would have you inform from time to time the Admiral or Commander-in-Chief that he can have little dependance upon being supplied with fresh provisions at St. Helena, as we are assured by the Governour, the island is so much exhausted they cannot afford to kill more than one small bullock a week to supply their market. You must therefore most earnestly recommend it to them to refresh their people at one or both the beforementioned places, and likewise take on board as much live provisions as they can for the rest of the voyage home, also as much fuel as may be necessary, the island being almost exhausted of wood.

23. We have introduced a new clause into our commanders' instructions by which they are directed to supply their ships before their departure from India with as much fuel as will serve for their homeward bound voyage, allowing for an extraordinary stay at St. Helena or elsewhere, that they may not be under the necessity of distressing the island in this particular; they are also directed for the same reason to stock themselves with live provisions. We recommend it to you therefore to remind every commander dispatched from Bengal of his carefully complying with his said instruction.

24. In order to prevent as much as lyes in our power illicit trade, you are strictly to observe our former orders on this head, and we do direct that you do seize and dispose of on the Company's account all goods in private trade landed from any of our Europe ships which have not been licensed by us, and you are to transmit us a particular account of the said goods and what they [...] for, together with an exact detail of the whole transaction.

25. We have left it to the discretion of our President and Council at Fort St. George either to detain the *Warwick* for an early dispatch from thence or to forward her to you according to circumstances: observing, however, that if the first is determined upon as the properest measure, the wine and other consignments for your Presidency are to be forwarded by the earliest and safest conveyances that offer.

26. As soon as the ships the *Ilchester*, *Worcester*, *Grantham*, *Fox* and *Elizabeth* have delivered the few consignments laden for the Presidency at Fort St. George, and such part of their treasure is coined or exchanged into rupees as you have given notice may be necessary, the President and Council have directions to dispatch them to you without loss of time, being apprized that their early arrival in Bengal is of great importance to the Company.

27. As there were but four ships consigned to the Coast and Bay last season, we cannot but suppose they will be all returned to Europe, and in

such case you and our servants at Fort St. George will have the less difficulty to provide cargos for the six ships proceeding thither this season, but as in the present unhappy situation of a French war many circumstances may frustrate your best intentions, we can only recommend it to you, in concert with our other Presidencys, to use your best endeavours that they may be all returned to us as early in the same season they arrive as possible; the places from whence they are to be laden and the times of their dispatch must likewise be left to your prudence and determined upon according to circumstances.

28. Should through any unforeseen events one or more of our ships be prevented from returning home the same season, you are, in concert with our other Presidencys, to employ them in such a manner as will be best for the Company's interest, having a particular regard to their earning as much towards defraying the charge of their demorage as possible, the rate of which you will observe by the charterparty to be extremely heavy in time of war.

29. The foregoing directions and recommendations to be extended to the assistance of Bombay Presidency with respect to the ships consigned thither, so as that their return likewise the same season may so far as depends upon you [be] facilitated, or those detained in India employed to the best advantage.

30. With the assistance of saltpetre we are in hope every ship will have her charterparty tonnage laden and, rather than any should be detained in India for another season, we would have them dispatched accordingly with the charterparty tonnage only, but if you can load a further quantity of goods [on] each ship it will be more acceptable; provided it does not prevent the dispatch of any other, and that such surplus tonnage does not render the ship unfit in any degree from defending herself properly in case of being attacked by the enemy.

31. The Deputy Governour and Council at Fort Marlborough are directed to give the *Falmouth* her charterparty tonnage with the usual additional quantity for wastage; and with respect to surplus tonnage she is to have as large a quantity as can be spared consistently with the reserve to be made for a ship either from you or Fort St. George, which reserve is not to exceed two hundred and fifty tons; but if they shall have certain advice that no ship will be sent to them as aforesaid, in such case they are to give the *Falmouth* as full a loading as she can take in without being pestered and any way rendered incapable of defence in case of being attacked. As the Deputy Governour and Council are in a great measure to be guided by the advices they receive from Fort St. George or Bengal, and that they are in the meantime to give you an account of the pepper they have reason to expect every season, you are to concert the necessary measures with the Presidency of Fort St. George for a ship's proceeding accordingly from one or the other settlement to the West Coast, or if one of our Europe ships does not go thither, that as early advice be given thereof as may be, that the *Falmouth* may have a loading accordingly.

32. The quantity of saltpetre to be laden on every ship is to be as much as can be taken in consistently with the beforementioned circumstances of not preventing thereby the dispatch of others, or being rendered incapable of a proper defence in case of an attack.

33. The return of all our expected shipping the last season from the

several parts of India (although late) is very advantageous to the Company, and your conduct in particular with respect to the disposition of those in which you were concerned has given us much satisfaction, as the measures taken in concert with our other Presidencies has fully answered our expectations. The great advantage of returning all our shipping the season of their arrival, if practicable, and that very early, is so obvious and has been so frequently inculcated it is unnecessary to say any thing further thereon than that it is an object you must never lose sight of when circumstances will permit.

34. In this time of great danger we must recommend it to you to proportion the value of each ship's cargo as nearly equal to others as you can, and if it can be so contrived the latest dispatched ships should be of the lest value, and although we do not disapprove of so valuable cargos being laden on the *Denham*, yet considering her late dispatch, the condition of the ship, and how indifferently she was manned, the risque the Company run was rather too great.

35. We find for expedition sake the usual surveys upon the *Saint George* and *Denham* were dispensed with. It is true no bad consequences have attended this omission but we must recommend it to you strictly to observe the general practice of the Company in this particular manner, especially where ships have been detained an extraor[dinary] time in India as was the case of the said two ships.

36. Your late Master Attendant Mr. Plaisted's² behaviour to you very justly drew on his suspension, and Captain David Graham does at present, by your appointment, fill that post. We most readily confirm the same, having received from many gentlemen here a very satisfactory character of him.

37. In case of Captain Graham's death or absence we shall leave it to you to appoint the best qualified person you can find to the post of Master Attendant in his room provisionally, until you receive our further commands, as we shall always reserve the confirmation of the person appointed to that office to ourselves.

38. Captain Graham having represented to us that two of our sloops namely the *Fort St. George* and *Calcutta* are very old and want more repairs that [than] they will be worth, and that he had proposed to you to have two new sloops built at Bombay, and that instead of having them rigged with one mast they may be rigged as schooners, we do approve of his scheme, and if upon tryal it answers expectation this new method is to be continued. We must suppose you have already apply'd to the President and Council of Bombay for two new sloops, but if you have not it must be done as soon after the receipt of this as a conveyance offers.

39. Upon a further representation in the said letter from Captain Graham, we think it necessary to direct that in future no marine stores shall be sold out of our stores to private shipping but with the consent of the Master Attendant for the time being, who is always to signify, before any are parted with the private persons, whether they are or are not wanted for the Company's use.

40. We shall take under our consideration next season what Captain

Graham mentions likewise with respect to our sending out mooring chains, and spars, for schooner's pole masts.

41. A *lascar* named St. Jago who came to England in the *Stafford*, on the request of the owners of that ship, now returns to Bengal on the *Elizabeth*. [.....] consideration of his having lost both his legs here, we have agreed to allow him four current rupees a month during his life, which you are hereby authorized and directed to pay him accordingly.

Secondly, of goods from Europe or from one part of India to another

42. The principal consignment to you on the *Warwick* consisted of about one hundred tons of lead, besides which we gave directions to our correspondents at the island of Madeira to load on the said ship for your Presidency one hundred and fifty pipes of wine; for the particulars as well of one as the other consignment we refer you to the invoices in her packets, but we must inform you that considering the great demand for wine at Fort St. George we could not avoid giving our President and Council there liberty to detain (as we have done for some time past) fifty pipes, part of the said one hundred and fifty, cautioning them at the same time not to stop more on any account whatsoever, and not even that quantity or any part of it without a real necessity.

43. In consequence of the 42th paragraph of your General Letter of the 11th of September 1755 relative to the leakage of Madeira wine, and of some complaints of the same from our Presidency at Fort St. George, as well as of the [short] gauge of the casks (a particular, which although you have not mentioned we make no doubt there were the same reasons for), we have made the strongest representations thereon to our correspondents at Madeira, and we hope with good effect, but in order to prevent as much as possible any future complaints, we have concerted and agreed with them, that the wines shall be upwards of a year old before they are shipped, by which they will be better assured of the quality, and as the fermentation by that time will be in a great measure over, it will in some degree prevent the leakage so much complained of. They are likewise to take particular care that the casks are made up to hold completely one hundred and fifteen gallons each, and before shipping them they are to call upon the captain either to see every cask gauged and full himself or depute one of his officers for that purpose. They are to draw out certificates of the particulars of such gauge to be signed by themselves and the captain or his officers aforesaid, one of which is to be sent to us, one delivered to the captain, and the others forwarded to Fort William and Fort St. George. All the Company's wines for the future are to have our mark burnt on each cask, as it has been intimated that some of our commanders have had their pipes made up to gauge considerably less than the company's standard of one hundred and fifteen gallons, and as it is possible that such casks may have been delivered in lieu of some of the company's, it may in some measure account for the short gauge so frequently complained of from Fort St. George, to prevent which in future the marking the Company's casks only as before-mentioned will be very useful. And we have further given positive directions as you will observe by Captain Webb's instructions that he does not ship or suffer to be shipped upon his own account or that of any of his ships's company any

pipe or pipes of wine but what shall contain the full quantity of one hundred and fifteen gallons each. These precautions will be continued every season, and we desire you will let us know what effect they have by sending to us a very particular account from year to year of the condition of the wines consigned to you for our information and having justice done with, if there appears reason to apply for it.

44. You are to observe that the commander and ship's company of the *Warwick* have the usual indulgence of twenty pipes of wine.

45. Although all the treasure by the *Warwick* and the four Coast and China ships was consigned to the President and Council of Fort St. George, yet it being our intention that as considerable a remittance should be made out of it to you as can possibly be spared, we have given the necessary directions thereupon and we hope you will in good time receive the benefit of it accordingly.

46. These ships, the *Ilchester*, *Worcester*, *Grantham*, *Fox* and *Elizabeth* are first to proceed to Fort St. George in order to deliver some few consignments which could not be got ready in time for the first sett of ships or which were not able to take in, but the bulk of their cargoes as well treasure as goods are consigned to you, for the particulars of which we refer you to the respective invoices and bills of lading.

47. We have acquainted our President and Council of Fort St. George accordingly that they are to detain these ships as little as possible, and no longer than may be necessary for coining [or] exchanging such part of the treasure into rupees as you shall intimate to them may be necessary for carrying on your investment and the other current expences of your settlements; having also acquainted them that the said treasure, being principally intended as we have consigned it for Bengal, we have added a strong injunction that they are not to detain a dollar of it more than is really and absolutely necessary for our [service] upon the coast of Choromandel.

48. Upon the presumption that you will desire part of the said treasure to be exchanged or coined, we have sent the several invoices first to Fort St. George which are to be forwarded upon each respective ship to you together with an account of what the President and Council detain, if any, and what alterations [are] made by shipping rupees in lieu of bullion taken out.

49. The woollen consignment by these ships for your Presidency consists of about six hundred and sixty bales of cloth, three hundred and sixteen bales of long ells, and seven hundred and ninety pieces of yard and half wide long ells in seventy nine bales. The consignments to Fort St. George do not exceed one hundred and forty bales of cloth and twenty bales of long ells. Those to Bombay will be about fourteen hundred bales of cloth but no long ells, over and above five hundred and forty six bales of cloth, four hundred and four bales of long ells containing ten pieces in each, forty bales of shalloons and some few other particulars which are laden on the *Prince Edward* for the Gombroon and Bussorah markets.

50. It is necessary you should be informed that we have intimated to the President and Council at Fort St. George that if they should be under any difficulties in the disposal of their woollen goods and are assured they may go

off to greater advantage in Bengal or at Bombay, in such case they are to consign them accordingly, agreeable to the advices they shall receive from either Presidency; we have great hopes however that they will not be under the necessity of making use of this expedient, when it is considered how small the consignment to them is the present season, and that none were sent them the former year.

51. It is with much concern we observe that woollen goods have for some time past proved so heavy an article, not only as disappointing the Company in their particular views of profit but impeding their more general and national design of vending large quantities in Bengal; however, as your last advices give us an account of your having in a manner cleared your godowns, we are in hopes to find your following sales have proved more advantageous, and as we have frequently expressed how much we have at heart the extension of this branch of our commerce, we shall expect you will exert yourselves in promoting it equal to our wishes and the utmost of your power; in the mean time we cannot but approve of your disposing of the ordinary red and poppin-jay sortiments although at a very small advance upon the invoice price, but we must add that we shall depend upon your never putting up the woollens in future under the established rate of fifteen per cent advance upon the invoice price without an apparent and unavoidable necessity for such a measure.

52. In part of the copper consigned to you on the ships *Worcester*, *Grantham*, *Ilchester* and *Elizabeth* there is about thirty tons in small bars in imitation of Japan copper, notwithstanding which consignment we have given leave to the President and Council at Fort St. George to take out all or any part thereof if they judge it will come to a good market there. You will be advised by them of what is done in consequence of this liberty.

53. We hope to find the engagement for Captain Buchanan's making gunpowder will in the event prove what you assert, that it will be the most reasonable in price as well as the securest method for having it of a good quality, but we cannot help observing that this matter does not seem to have had a due consideration, as the very day he delivered in his proposals to the Board they were immediately agreed to, and it does not appear any previous steps were taken to examine into them.

54. By your letter of the 4th of March we observe you had just received a very welcome remittance of one hundred and twenty thousand rupees from Bombay. We shall not only lay our commands upon that Presidency for sending to you from time to time what they can spare, but we shall, by the shipping consigned thither this season, enable them as far as the present circumstances will admit to comply with such our commands.

55. In your letter of the 4th March you mention Mr. Holwell's^a having made a minute in relation to establishing a residency at Agra, and a motion to send some small adventures of our staples to the inland marts, such as Radnagore, Cutwa, Maulda and other *aurungs* under the conduct and management of our junior servants; you transmit us the minute and motion and promise to give your sentiments upon the last by the advices of next season. We must therefore defer giving any directions thereon, until we have received your sentiments agreeable to your promise.

Thirdly, of investments

56. We now transmit to you the annual lists of the investment to be provided at Fort William and its subordinate settlements, in which we have made such observations as we judged necessary for your information and guidance, to all which you must give due attention, and strictly follow the several directions therein also contained. We could have been glad it had gone by the Coast and China ships, but the lateness of the sale arising from the detention of our homeward bound shipping and the many difficulties which the present general situation of affairs have thrown in the way prevented it. We hope, however, it will come to your hands in time to answer the main of our intentions, especially as we must suppose you made a beginning early in the season.

57. The method of conducting the Calcutta investment by *gomastahs* under the direction of a committee of warehouse meets with our entire approbation; the only objection it seems at present liable to, is the hazard run by trusting the *gomastahs*, many of them at least, with money and goods to rather too large an amount, as appears by the accounts you transmitted to us by the *Denham*. We should be glad the business could be carried on with smaller advances, but as you assure us you have given the strictest attention and have taken every precaution in your power to prevent our estates being embezzled or bad debts, we must depend upon the faithful continuance of your care in this most important branch of the Company's affairs, and that whenever and wherever you find it practicable, you will reduce the amount of the advances to the *gomastahs* to such a compass as will prevent any considerable loss.

58. The great utility of having a large quantity of saltpetre ready at our several Presidencies is evinced by the return of all our expected ships, as well those of the last as the preceeding season, by the assistance of that article; the number of ships proceeding to India this year together with the demand for it in this time of war, makes this measure extremely necessary to be continued; you are therefore to make a provision accordingly to the amount of two thousand tons or thereabouts upon the best terms and conditions you can, in doing which we must entirely depend upon your care and attention, and we must here give it as a hint that, if it is possible, some other merchants should be encouraged to make their proposals to you, as the most effectual method for lowering the price, the whole dealing in this article seeming at present to be engrossed by Omichund⁴, who will consequently always set and bring you to his price.

59. Upon turning your eyes upon the list of shipping and upon considering the advices received from our other settlements, you will very easily know what quantities of saltpetre will be necessary for the assisting in loading home the several ships from each, and you are accordingly to supply them at such times and by such conveyances as shall be most convenient as well to them as you, observing that it is our intention to have laden in the whole from Bengal and the other settlements together, on the ships to be dispatched in the season of the year 1757, to the amount of the beforementioned two thousand tons or thereabout.

60. The dearness and debasements in the quality of the investments at the subordinate settlements, together with the frequent disappointments in quan-

ties, the bad debts contracted, and many other causes of complaint induced us to express our apprehensions in a pretty strong manner and occasioned the directed enquiries in our General Letter of the 31st January, 1755. We find our servants at Cossimbuzar and Dacca have in their letters to you, which were intended for our inspection, shewn a great concern at our censures and endeavoured to evince they have, according to times and circumstances, used their best and faithfulest endeavours to serve the Company. We own we have no particuilar reason to suspect their integrity; on the contrary, Mr. Watts⁵, in particular, stands well in our esteem. But still the enquiries we directed were very necessary, and the methods of conducting their investments wanted much to be regulated, both which the gentlemen of your Supravisig Committee have assured us they would take under their consideration after the dispatch of the shipping then on hand. As we may therefore very soon expect the result of their enquiries and your sentiments and proceedings thereon, it is unnecessary and premature to give any directions on this head until we have seen them.

61. We cannot help thinking that your plan of providing the Calcutta investment may be easily and very usefully introduced at the subordinates, Cossimbuzar in particular, which we recommend to your most serious consideration. At the same time you are to turn in your thoughts what Mr. Watts and his Council has intimated as to appointing a broker, and upon the whole determine upon such methods as will be the safest and least expensive to the Company.

62. Whether the expences at Cossimbuzar may not be greatly reduced is a point which falls likewise very naturally under your consideration, and as we cannot but think it feasible, we shall expect that you do accordingly put that settlement upon a different and more saving footing than it is at present. The like attention must be had to the expences of the other subordinates, but more particularly that at Dacca, which likewise may be regulated much to the Company's benefit.

63. The goods received from Dacca this season are considerably amended; more especially the stitched sortments such as the *tanjeebs*, *terrindams*, and *doreas*, particularly the latter; this we must do our servants the justice to own; at the same time we cannot avoid remarking that the defence made by the late Mr. Clerembault⁶ and his Council upon our just and repeated complaints of the badness of their investments for some time past is very slight, and by no means satisfactory, and that part especially which respects Mr. Wogan we think plainly shews they were not ignorant of his illicit manner of trading; however, as Mr. Clerembault is no more, we shall instead of further animadversions only say that we hope the future good conduct of our servants at that settlement will make amends for what is past.

64. You have stated so many objections against Mr. Baillie's proposal for renting the pergunnah of Luckipore, that it does not seem to be a measure proper to be carried into execution; however, if upon further consideration you find the advantages will be great and you are thoroughly satisfied that the umbrage it may give the neighbouring *phousdar* and *zemindars* can be entirely avoided, and that you [run no] risque of embroiling our affairs with the country Government, [we] say in such cases we shall leave it to your

discretion to do herein as shall appear upon the whole to be most for the Company's interest.

*Fourthly, of the trade of India and transactions with the
country Governments*

65. As the affair of Deepchund's deposit^r falls more properly under the eighth head, we shall there give you the necessary directions for bringing it to an issue.

66. It is with much concern we observe in your detail of transactions with the country Government, that every circumstance and opportunity affords pretences for exactions. It is impossible for us to mark out any precise rules for your conduct; in general we can only say, that you are to be jealous in preserving our *phirmaund*, rights and privileges, and when any sums of money are demanded, or any oppression endeavoured to be laid upon our trade or otherways, that you will obviate or settle them upon the best terms you can, in doing which our great dependance must be placed on your sense and care.

67. Among other many unreasonable demands, that made upon you for the Cotmahs' effects is of a very pernicious nature, as it tends to render our protection of no effect, and subjecting the English flag to contempt; we find this affair was not brought to an issue upon the coming away of your last advices, but we hope your steadiness and resolution will disappoint Hookumbeg^s in his oppressive and lucrative views and confirm the rich natives, who reside in the Company's limits, that their persons and effects will be secure.

68. A further instance of very unfair proceedings appears in the affair of the *chokeys*, for after you thought our trade was sufficiently and effectually secured from their oppressions by ample grants from the Nabob, a pretence was set up of an equivalent to be made for those leased out under the *pachowtrah drogha*, amounting to about twelve thousand rupees, which we find was left to Mr. Watts and his Council to settle with Hookumbeg, with a caution, and indeed a very proper one, that it should not be made a president for the like demand from his successors. We hope to hear that this affair has been settled accordingly, and here we must add that, as many of these oppressions take their rise from great abuses in the *dusticks*, we shall depend upon your regulating them in such a manner as will most effectually prevent all pretences for complaint in future.

69. We observe that upon Hookumbeg's making a peremptory demand for *sicca* rupees two thousand three hundred, on account of the sugar purchasers, you had empowered the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to pay him that sum, this is another instance of oppression which is now become in a manner annual. You must use your best endeavours to prevent its being established as a custom, and we do expect that you will take care to collect from those persons who have the benefit of that trade all impositions it is the occasion of.

70. We cannot as yet see sufficient reasons for dispensing with the recommendations in our letter of the 31th of January 1755, with respect to the importation of your ships and vessels at foreign ports upon the coast of Chormandel; at the same time we do assure you that we have given and shall give the necessary directions to our President and Council of that Presidency to

give you all the assistance in their power to facilitate your business there in general, and in particular that you may not in future have any reason to complain of the want of boats, and as we are willing to give all reasonable liberty of trade consistently with the interest of the Company's revenues, you may depend upon our resuming the consideration of this affair whenever we are assured it is a real grievance.

71. The 105th paragraph of your letter of the 8th of December 1755 is of so very extraordinary a nature that we could never have expected from any of our servants who had the least regard to decency; it is no other than a tacit request to trade with new comers for your own private benefit to the apparent prejudice of the Company, though you do not vouchsafe to think the last the case. If any of the Prussian ships want the usual assistance of water, provisions or real necessaries, they are to be supplied according to the custom of nations in amity one with the other, but you are on no pretence whatsoever to have any dealings with them or give the least assistance in their mercantile affairs, for it is a very bad argument that because the French and Dutch Companies' servants make no scruple to provide and sell them such sortments of goods as they are in want of, that therefore you only are sufferers; if they have so little regard to the interest of their employers, the more is the [reason] we expected juster sentiments of duty from you.

72. As our servants upon the west coast of Sumatra have not hitherto been in any degree of equality upon a footing in respect to the trade and other emoluments with those in the other parts of India, we have in our letter to them by the *Falmouth* under date of the 29th of December last agreed to give them the encouragements therein mentioned, which we think proper here to insert word for word for your information, and we strictly charge you to observe and comply with the same for their benefit and advantage so far as you have, or may have, any concerns or connections in trade or otherways with them viz.,

"Having maturely considered the situation of our servants upon the West Coast establishment with respect to the hardships they lye under in their trade, and being very desirous that they should carry on the same as much to their advantage as any other of our servants whatsoever, and at the same time having a view, by a reasonable encouragement, to encrease the Company's revenues rather by promoting an extensive trade than levying heavy duties, we have thought proper to direct that the regulations made by the President and Council of Fort St. George in their letter to you under date of the 21th October 1754 be annulled and they are accordingly hereby declared void, and in lieu of them the following regulations are hereby ordered and directed to take place and to be observed upon the receipt of this letter, and that they may take effect in the other parts of India, we shall communicate them with the necessary injunctions to our Presidencies at Fort St. George, Bombay, and Fort William.

"The Company's servants upon the establishment of the west coast of Sumatra and all persons there under the protection of the Company are to have the liberty of resorting to, and trading at, all and any of the Company's settlements in the East Indies, and at all other places within the Company's limits, in as full, free, and extensive a manner as the rest of the Company's servants and others residing under their protection at their Presidencies and

other settlements do at present, they paying the Company's duties at all such places, according to the usual and customary methods and rates established at such places.

"The trade upon the West Coast is to be reciprocally and in like manner open and free to all the rest of the Company's servants in the East Indies, and all such persons as trade under the Company's protection.

"That all the persons described above residing the west coast of Sumatra, who shall resort or trade either themselves or their agents to Fort St. George, Fort William, Bombay and their respective dependancies, are to buy and sell publicly or privately as they themselves shall chuse, to deal freely and without restraint with whoever they shall think proper, and if contrary to this article they shall be oppressed or injured by any person or persons whatsoever, such person or persons, let their rank be what it may, will incur our highest displeasure, and shall certainly feel the weight of our resentment.

"All persons trading to the west coast of Sumatra are reciprocally to have the freedom of trading as described in the preceeding article.

"That with respect to the trade upon the West Coast, the following regulations be observed viz.,

"That a duty of two per cent be *ad valorem* levied and paid on all goods imported from any parts of the East Indies of what kind soever, except as hereafter otherways provided for, and in order to ascertain the said duty the goods so imported are to be rated at ten per cent under the market price.

"No duties are to be levied on Europe commodities manifested in England and indulged by us, as they principally consist of necessaries and provisions for the use of our servants.

"That instead of a prohibition of Buggese, Java, Bally, Atcheen, Padang and such kinds of clouting or piece goods, a duty of fifteen per cent *ad valorem* be laid on them, rating the same at ten per cent under the market price.

"That all other imports as benjamin, camphire, swallow, tobacco, gongs &c pay a duty of five per cent *ad valorem*, except gold, silver, rice, paddy, and provisions of all kinds, that the value of such goods be estimated ten per cent under the market price.

"That goods meant by the preceeding article when re-exported from the West Coast within the year (having the package entire) to any of the Company's settlements in India shall have a drawback of three per cent, in consideration of the fresh customs they are to pay to the Company.

"That the above duties be collected at all the settlements upon the West Coast subordinate to Fort Marlborough.

"That for the better securing the Company's duties all goods laden on the West Coast for any parts of India, or on the contrary, from any parts of India to the West Coast, shall be regularly manifested at the severall and respective places they are laden, and certificates thereof signed by the Company's Governors, Chiefs and other proper person or persons.

"That whoever shall land goods without making a proper entry of them

shall forfeit the goods so landed, one half to the informer, and the other half to the Company.

"That all private merchandize laden on board the Company's sloops or other vessels be regularly manifested and pay a freight to be collected by the Sea Customer viz., two per cent to and from Batavia and one per cent to and from any of the Company's settlements on the West Coast.

"That private merchandize shipped on board the Company's vessels for Fort St. George or any other of the Company's Presidencies or their subordinates be likewise manifested to pay freight there, and that the captains or masters of such vessels receive no goods on board without a permit signed by the Secretary, and the said freight shall be ascertained before such merchandize is shipped and regular certificate thereof signed by the Company's Governour, Chiefs or other proper person or persons.

"It being our intention that our servants on the West Coast should have the liberty of importing goods from any parts of India, and the foregoing regulations being made in consequence thereof, the order therefore contained in the letter from the Presidency of Fort St. George of the 21th October 1754, by which all piece goods imported on the West Coast are prohibited, except such as were manifested at Fort St. George, is at an end.

"In the said letter of the 21th October 1754, opium, iron and salt are entirely reserved to the Company and all other persons are prohibited from trading therein; with respect to opium and iron, the prohibition is from henceforward to cease, and you are at liberty to trade therein as formerly; as to the sale of salt it is still to be reserved to the Company, but our servants are to be at liberty to purchase any quantities that can be spared for exportation, they paying for the same after the rate of forty dollars for a *coyan*."

73. The foregoing regulations are not calculated solely for the benefit of our servants upon the West Coast, but that the trade there shall be open to all other persons therein mentioned, in as full a manner as at all our other settlements; you are to take care therefore that as far as we have any concerns therein, they are carried into execution accordingly so as may best answer our intentions.

74. The general situation of affairs and the necessary directions in this time of danger, as well with respect to the French as your concerns with the country Government, will be communicated by the gentlemen of the Secret Committee to the President and the rest of the gentlemen of the Select Committee at Fort William.

75. Your care and vigilance is not to be confined to your Presidency only, but must in this dangerous juncture extend to the general interest of the Company wherever and whenever it is in your power to be of service; for this purpose a good harmony must be kept up with our other Presidencies that you may mutually assist each other, and here it is necessary you should be informed that we have reminded our Governour and Council of Fort St. George of the defenceless condition of our valuable settlements in Bengal, and have accordingly recommended it to them to give such assistance as may tend so far as lyes in their power to their preservation whenever there appears a necessity for it.

Fifthly, of fortifications, buildings and revenues

76. The death of Colonel Scott, and the want of able people for undertaking such an important work as the fortifying Fort William, has almost totally disconcerted our designs, but we have some prospect of engaging in the Company's service a gentlemen of tried abilities and known skill as an engineer, but this at present we can only hint for your information; in the mean time as the war with France justly alarms us, and we cannot but be apprehensive that your settlement may be liable to an attack, we empowered the Secret Committee to give some directions on this head which they communicated to the President in a letter dated the 25th of May last by His Majesty's ship *Triton*, also by the *Prince Henry* packet, in duplicates by each ship with directions for their being forwarded to Bengal from the places where those ships were first destined, which letter we hope will have long since come to the President's hands; however we shall now in general adopt the same what follows.

77. We are to inform you then that as we cannot at present think of any person so fit and capable in all respects to fortify Fort William in an effectual manner as Captain John Brohier, our present Engineer upon the coast of Choromandel, we hope, in consequence of the orders sent by the Committee of Secrecy, he has or will be able to proceed accordingly to Bengal.

78. Since the death of Colonel Scott we observe the affair of the fortifications has fallen under the directions and thoughts of different people, whose sentiments are accordingly various, and in particular Mr. Simpson seems to think that gentleman's plans inconvenient and expensive; this with all other opinions must therefore be well weighed and considered by you previous to your engaging in any expensive works.

79. Notwithstanding the directions in our General Letter of the 11th of February 1756, on being informed of the death of Colonel Scott, to suspend the carrying into execution that gentleman's plan, the President, in concert with the Select Committee and with you as our General Council, are when necessary to concert with Captain Brohier the proper measures for immediately rendering our settlement at Fort William defensible against the French or any other European force; he is to be furnished with any plans and projects of the late Mr. Robins as well as Colonel Scott's that are procurable; he is to have all necessary informations, intelligence and advice, from all which he is to consider of and form a plan for a fortification which according to the best of his judgment will be effectual in the present conjuncture as well as for the future at the least possible expence; after the President, in concert with the Select Committee and you as our General Council when necessary, have well considered the said plan, together with an estimate of the time, expence, materials and workmen necessary to compleat it, if you approve thereof, you are to carry the same forthwith into execution, in the manner and method laid down in our several letters of late, particularly such as were given during the time of Colonel Scott.

80. Captain Brohier must, whenever the fortifications and works are under consideration, have a seat and a voice at the Council Board, and agreeable to the method at Fort St. George, you are to appoint a standing

committee to consider of ways and means for carrying on the works with oeconomy and to the greatest advantage as well in providing materials as in all other branches; such a committee must constantly subsist, and Captain Brohier must be always a member of it, and they are to report their proceedings from time to time to the Council Board for your information and are to carry into execution all such directions as you shall think proper to give them.

81. By the death of Colonel Scott we were deprived of the estimates of the expences of the works projected by him, but we shall expect by the earliest conveyances all such as may be necessary for our information in the works to be constructed and carried on under Captain Brohier, as well as the plans, drawings and sections of them; these we should have been glad to have been furnished with, before giving positive directions for beginning the said works, but as the present dangerous juncture will not admit of such a necessary precaution, we must recommend it to you to begin with such part of the plan as will be of the most immediate use and may be of future utility, even upon the supposition that we should not approve of the whole of Captain Brohier's intended plan or project.

82. As during the proceedings in this work, as well as previous to the undertaking them, many things may occur in which great secrecy will be necessary, such therefore are to fall under cognizance of, and be transacted by, the Select Committee to be communicated to you when they shall judge it safe and proper.

83. The beforegoing directions are given upon the supposition that Mr. Brohier can be spared to proceed to you, but if contrary to our expectations he does not come to Bengal, you are then, with the best assistance you have or can procure from such persons as are best qualified in the engineering way, only to set about such works as are immediately necessary for the defence of the place, in which you are to have a view to their utility when a future regular plan can be formed by such person as shall be appointed by us for that purpose.

84. In case Captain Brohier is or shall be in Bengal for the before-mentioned purposes, he is still to be our Engineer General upon the coast of Choromandel, and likewise to have the benefit of his artillery company, the pay and appointments for both which you will be informed of by the President and Council at Fort St. George and it must be paid to him accordingly by you; when we are apprized of his services in Bengal we shall duly consider them, in the mean time all his extraordinary expences must be paid.

85. In our letter of the 31th January 1755, you [were] directed to make and transmit to us your remarks upon Mr. Holwell's state of the revenues therein mentioned and among other things to point out the advantages and disadvantages of the present plan and what alterations and regulations you thought necessary to be made, as well for the ease and benefit of the people as the advantage of the Company. Upon this we find it was referred to a committee to examine into the same and to report, accordingly a report we find was made on the 16th of February 1756, containing a statement only of what was well known [...] viz., the revenues of 1751 compared with

Mr. Holwell's for 1753, adding that it was all they imagined it requisite for them to do as they esteemed any thing else the business of the Board; this report is mentioned to be read on that day's Consultation, but not a single observation made or resolution formed thereon; we are unwilling to suppose this any other than an inadvertency, and in consequence shall depend upon your next letters bringing satisfactory answers to our beforementioned directions.

86. It is true that the committee, in a report to the Board on the 2d November previous to the sale of the farms, recommended the taking of the dutys upon some articles for the benefit of the poor, which produced a regulation with regard to a ferry, but this has but a small connection with the enquiries directed, does not invalidate what is mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

87. The difference in the amount of the Zemindary revenues, between the two *cutcherry* years you mention, of rupees 21349-4-3 is more than accounted for by the difference of the credits from the *gunge* and the export duty on grain owing as it is represented to the excessive dearness of grain at Baker Gunge; under such circumstances we must always leave it to your discretion to keep the duty of the *gunge* in your hands or otherways as shall be most for the general good of the inhabitants as well as the Company. The prospect of a plenty of grain the succeeding seasons affords some hopes however of seeing this branch of our revenues in your next statements in a more advantageous light.

88. Upon your representing that the 5 per cent duty on sale of houses created universal clamour and is esteemed very burthensome, and that therefore it will be more eligible to relinquish it, we do assure you and in course all the inhabitants of Calcutta that we have a tender regard to their ease and do therefore consent that the said duty be laid aside; at the same time we cannot avoid taking notice of the insolent behaviour of Captain Durand as tending to such a contempt of our authority as ought never to be borne; your denying him therefore the Company's protection was a very proper measure, more especially as we know of no license he has ever had to reside in any place in India, but we hope it will induce others to behave to you with the decency in future as may prevent any further complaints of this or any other kind where our authority is struck at through the sides of you our representatives; if Captain Durand continues to misbehave you have our directions for sending him home immediately, as you are likewise any other person or persons who shall be guilty of any kind of insolent behaviour and contempt of your authority.

89. By your letter of the 23th of February 1756, you seem to expect our directions for resetting Patna factory by these ships, although at the same time you acknowledge you could not give your final judgment upon the advantages of such a measure without informing yourselves of some very material matters therein mentioned, which you say you had not then time sufficient to do. We observe that on the 22th December you directed some statements to be drawn out necessary to form a judgment on this affair, they were laid before you on the 9th of February, on the 16th Mr. Pearks's⁹ minute is entered on Consultation referring to some accounts stated by him, the last Consultation you have transmitted to us was held on the 23th of the same

month when your General Letter was dated, on which day not a word is entered relating to the Patna affair. We mention these particulars to shew that as a Board you have not examined the said accounts (which appear upon a general view of them to be in some respects fallaciously stated) or even had this affair under your consideration in such a deliberating manner as the importance thereof and our commands of the 31th January 1755 required, and in consequence your sentiments, as expressed in your before mentioned letter, are clashing and confused. It is impossible therefore to give you any final orders for resetting Patna this season, but we direct that you take a careful view of the accounts beforementioned, together with your whole proceedings, and give us distinctly and clearly your opinions jointly or separately and the reasons that induce you for such opinions, whether it will be advantageous to settle at Patna or not, and if you are for resetting, to give us the whole of the plan which according to the best of your judgment it will be proper to proceed on, as well previous to your taking possession as afterwards.

90. As you have pointed out a method for settling the *assamys'* accounts, we recommend it to, and do empower, you to proceed upon and finish the same as a previous step necessary to be taken before resetting Patna, provided it can be done at no great expence. Another very material measure is the fixing the *darbar* as well as all other country Government charges upon a certain and easy footing which you are likewise previously to treat upon, and you are to consider what number of people will be necessary to carry on the business at Patna, and the expence which will attend the same upon the most frugal plan you can think of, and in course very different from the old method; your adjusting these points will greatly conduce to our sending final directions with respect to this settlement.

*Sixthly and seventhly, of covenant and military
servants & their accounts*

91. We have chosen Mr. Edward Barwell to be a writer upon the Bengal establishment and he accordingly took his passage on the ship *Warwick*.

92. As you have for the present a sufficient number of writers we have not chosen any other for your Presidency this season than Mr. Barwell aforesaid.

93. We now transmit to you, according to annual custom, lists of all such persons as have our permission to reside in the East Indies under the Company's protection, who proceed accordingly on the ships of this season.

94. We insist upon all our covenant servants executing fresh covenants as they come of age, and giving the usual security according to their rank in the service agreeable to our repeated orders, and particularly of the 11th of February 1756, and we expect that you do see the same punctually complied with. Although you have had a sufficient number of blank covenants sent you from time to time, yet to prevent all excuses we now transmit you twenty four by these ships.

95. We are very sensible that if such unbecoming behaviour as Mr. Plaisted's was to be passed over without a proper resentment, it would

lessen you in the eyes of the whole settlement, and render your authority as a Board and our immediate representatives contemptible; your suspending him from our service therefore was a very right measure. Although we have a due sense of Mr. Plaisted's former services and have a good opinion of his honesty, yet there appears such a turbulence in his temper that we cannot think will be for the interest of, or advantageous to, the Company to let him return to India (from whence he voluntarily came after his suspension) and therefore have not complied with his request for that purpose.

96. Mr. William Mc Gwire¹⁰, who came to England by your permission under the apprehension of Mr. Plaisted's doing him ill offices with us, does by our permission now return to his station at your Presidency, his absence being not on any account to be a prejudice to his standing; it is necessary however to inform you that Mr. Mc Gwire was called before us when sitting as a Court, and was acquainted from the chair that the above permission was granted him in consideration of your representations of his good behaviour since the rash action he had been guilty of against Mr. Plaisted and the Court's expectations from thence of his never giving cause of future complaint.

97. We cannot quit this subject without observing that, could the depositions taken before you as a bench of justices have been produced to you previous to your writing the 163rd paragraph of your General Letter of the 7th December 1754, much trouble might have been avoided on every hand, but to our great surprize they are therein said to be lost. We mention this principally to caution you against trusting to your memory in future by taking care that all law proceedings are deposited in places where they may be always readily found.

98. When the directions were given in our General Letter of the 24th January 1753, that no person who by his standing was of Council at Fort William should continue Chief of any subordinate settlement, and for shifting the junior servants from one settlement to another, we thought they were measures that would answer very good purposes, but we are since well satisfied that many inconveniencies will flow from a continuance of those regulations. We do therefore hereby repeal them, and we do henceforward leave it to you to employ our covenant servants in such places for such times and in general in such a manner as according to the best of your judgment will be most for the interest of the Company, having a strict regard to their qualifications for their present employs and their being in the way of gaining experience to fill the superior stations they may gradually advance to, with ability and reputation; you are to observe however that this general direction is not intended to break into the equitable rule of promoting our servants according to seniority in the service, when there is no reasonable objection to the contrary.

99. Being sensible that the post of Head Assistant at the *cutcherry* requires a close attention as well as good qualifications, we do not at present disapprove of your annexing thereto the same salary as is allowed several deputies in the other offices, that is to say five hundred *sicca* rupees a year, but we defer our entire confirmation of the same until you have transmitted to us your remarks upon the state of the Zemindary business as mentioned under the 5th head,

100. We must here acquaint you that for the future you are not to create any new salaries or allowances or make any additions to old customary ones without previously stating to us the reasons for any necessity of such salaries or allowances and having our consent for the same; we mean this principally with respect to our covenant and military servants, being sensible that in other employments and in extraordinary cases you must have some latitude which we hope you will make use of with frugality and discretion.

101. You have handed to us a pretty extraordinary request of Mr. Pearks's for an additional salary to support as he term[s] it the dignity of his station; it being merely transmitted without a single observation of yours upon it, we see no reason for deviating from the established rules of the Company, and therefore Mr. Pearks is to have no additional allowance either as one of the Council or for his present employ as Accountant.

102. We take it for granted that upon the receipt of our letter of the 11th February 1756 Mr. Baillie¹¹ who you took into Council upon the demise of Mr. Clerembault again quitted it and we confirm the orders we then gave that Mr. Baillie be not admitted to have a seat in Council without our particular orders.

103. We could have wished Mr. Frankland¹² had continued in his post of Assistant Export Warehouse Keeper until the arrival of our last season's letter, as we apprehend the notice we there took of him and the allowance we ordered to be made would have been inducements for his continuing therein, until some other person could have been qualified for it. He is still to have his option of his returning to that post if he thinks fit, but if that is not his choice some person of a superior rank to Mr. Nathan Drake is to be appointed, as we cannot think, from his standing in the service and for that reason only, he can be properly qualified for a post of so much importance to the Company.

104. You are strictly to observe our orders of last season not to allow to any other Assistant Export Warehouse Keeper than Mr. Frankland the two thousand rupees a year there mentioned without our express leave.

105. We have no objection to your giving all fitting encouragement to Mr. John Knox senior, one of your assistant surgeons, or of his succeeding to any vacancies that may happen after such have been provided for who have prior recommendations from us, provided he continues to behave to your satisfaction.

106. It hath been represented to us that one Dumbleton,¹³ acting as an attorney, was principally concerned in bringing the affair, in an extra-judicial manner, of Sarah Shaddow before the Mayor's Court. We do not find that he resides in Bengal with leave from us, or under our licence; if that is the case and you find him inclinable to foment disputes, and of a litigious disposition, you may send him home to Europe.

107. We have acquainted the President and Council at Fort St. George that as we must attend to the security of our settlements in Bengal as well as to their Presidency, we could not comply with a proposal they made us for

having all the military sent out on the Coast and Bay ships enlisted for Fort St. George, to be afterwards drafted as they could spare them for Bengal, because when once they are incorporated with their troops, we were very apprehensive they would not easily part with them. The recruits therefore now sent in the ships *Ilchester*, *Worcester*, *Grantham*, *Fox* and *Elizabeth* are destined for Bengal, and as your garrison is extremely weak, we have recommended it to the President and Council at Fort St. George to let them all proceed accordingly if possible to you, but if the service on the coast of Choromandel should be distressed without some of them, we could not avoid leaving it to their discretion (as we have done for some time past) to detain so many as are unavoidably necessary only, which recruits so to be detained are to be esteemed from thenceforward as belonging to the Fort St. George establishment.

108. We send as many recruits on these ships as we can raise and they can conveniently carry, but as we cannot at this juncture, when the demands for the national forces are so great, ascertain their number until the time almost of the ships' actual departure, we must refer you to the lists in the respective packets.

109. You must, whenever there is a necessity for assistance, apply to the President and Council of Fort St. George who have our strong recommendations to afford it, by draught from their troops or in such manner as will most effectually answer the purpose.

110. As after all we are but too sensible of the very great weakness of your garrison, and the little prospect of putting it in a respectable condition by recruits from hence or Fort St. George, we must depend upon your raising as many Europeans in Bengal to strengthen it as can possibly be procured.

111. For the reasons you give we do not disapprove of the permission given to Captain Fenwick to come to England; we shall give him leave to return to his station and duty in one of the ships of next season.

112. As you represent Captain Lawrence Withrington to be the only person at your Presidency qualified to take charge of the artillery company vacant by the death of Captain Jasper Leigh Jones, we approve of your granting him a commission to command the same, as we perfectly agree in sentiments that it is of the utmost importance to keep up the practice and exercise of the artillery at this juncture in particular, and he is to continue in ye comand provisionally until you have our further orders.

113. We observe that directions are given to Messrs Amyatt¹⁴ and Boddam¹⁵ to form a sett of regular books at Luckipore and Bulramgury, to be transmitted annually instead of the then method of keeping their accounts, but if the intent of your directions is only to bring on the former ballances upon the books from the time of your order it will not be satisfactory; for as those ballances have been increasing for several years, and no accounts given of the particulars which makes up the same, we direct that the whole of the accounts may appear upon the books that are to be formed, that we may thereby know our charges and how the several particulars have been disposed of.

114. Upon examination of the ballances of Cossimbuzar and Dacca

factories brought upon your general books ending April 1755, they stand as follow:

Cossimbuzar factory for

ballance by their books	...	Rs. 11,26,246	10	0	
Difference of former books	...	40,706	0	6	
Tents and cannants sent 1751 not accounted for	... ..	428	12	0	
					<hr/>
					11,67,381 6 6

Dacca factory for

ballance by their books	...				Rs. 8,56,216 3 3
Difference of former books	...				9,026 11 9
Alliballies returned them in 1748		147	4	3	
A large budgerow sent thither	...	1,768	0	0	
Musters of cloths sent in 1752 and 1754 not credited us for	... ..	79	3	0	
					<hr/>
					1,994 7 3

Rupees 8,67,237 6 3

The difference of former books at Cossimbuzar factory of rupees 40,706-0-6 and at Dacca factory of Rs. 9,026-11-9 have continued the same ever since the books ending 1748, from which time the accounts of those factories appear to have been properly adjusted, except as to the rupees 428-12-0 sent Cossimbuzar and rupees 1,994-7-3 sent to Dacca; it is therefore necessary to enquire what is become of the above differences, and the reasons why those factories have not charged themselves therewith.

115. By our auditors' remarks now transmitted to you it appears that bills of exchange were granted in August 1754 to the amount of rupees 1,87,812-9-0 at which time there was but rupees 1,58,067-13-9 paid into the Company's cash and the remaining sum of rupees 29,744-11-3 was not paid in until September and brought to account in October; this matter must be fully explained to us, as we cannot at present see it in any other light than as a great irregularity in your accounts, or unfaithful conduct in drawing upon us without having previously received a valuable consideration contrary to custom and our standing rules and orders.

116. By the same remarks it appears that rupees 3,327-8-0 have been paid to the Hugly *Phousdar* for the annual *piscash* more than was paid in the preceeding or former years, which we apprehend to be a mistake by paying it twice over, or otherwise is a new charge that we are not apprized of; you must explain this to us and if it is an overcharge see that justice is done us.

117. Your writing business has been better executed in the several books and papers received this season than for some time past, and fewer mistakes have appeared in the bills of exchange, but there is still great room for amendment in both, and we particularly desire you will recommend the writing the general books and consultations, general letters and all other books and papers of consequence in plain, full, round hands like what is practised here and at Fort St. George and Bombay, and not in the same loose hand which is too generally used at your Presidency.

118. We must observe to you that many heads may be curtailed on your general books by substituting the office instead of the person, the former never alters, and when a trust is delivered over from one servant to another it may be expressed in the journal; you are accordingly to regulate your books agreeable to this intimation.

119. The institution of your Committee of Accounts, agreeable to our commands, is a measure it is with great pleasure we observe has been already productive of some good regulations, and as the proceedings of that Committee hitherto appear very satisfactory, we shall depend upon their continuing such an application to the business that comes before them as will fully answer our expectations; there is one thing however they are deficient in and that is the reporting the amount of the several accounts they examine, which [in] general we observe are omitted, but for the future we ex[pect] that the amounts together with the ballances be in future mentioned both in their reports and on the face of your consultations for our better information.

120. Your constituting committees of accounts at Cossimbuzar and Dacca meets with our approbation, and we recommend it to your care to see that they do the duty expected from them.

121. We shall agreeable to your promise expect your book of standing orders by the next ships. It is unnecessary to comply with your request for our making a new digest of them, because as they are in the nature of a body of laws some will like them be according to times and circumstances obsolete, others useful on particular occasions, and many in the very nature of them permanent: your judgment therefore must determine which are in force, and which not.

Eighthly, concerning the Charter

122. In answer to the 93d paragraph of your letter of the 8th December 1755 relating to Deepchund's deposit and Coja Wazeed's¹⁶ application to have it paid to him, we have advised with council upon it, and the papers relating to this affair being extremely voluminous, and His Majesty's Solicitor General who is our Standing Council being so engaged that we could not expect to receive his opinion and directions in time to return you an answer by the present shipping, and Mr. Hoskins an eminent Council at the Chancery Bar having been formerly consulted upon the appeal to the King in Council and being thereby acquainted with the whole of this transaction, we thought proper to advise with him upon the present occasion and herewith we transmit you a copy of his opinion to which we direct you to conform.

123. In consequence of this opinion you are to provide two persons (whom you are to indemnify as they shall require) one of which must apply for administration to Mr. Cole, and the other for administration to Mr. Goddard.

124. As soon as these administrations are obtained, you must cause a bill to be filed in the Mayor's Court, according to the form we send you herewith, in the names of Deepchund and Wazeed against yourselves as our President and Council, and against the persons to whom the administrations to Cole and Goddard shall be granted, and you and they are to be put in your several answers the forms of which we send you herewith,

125. When the answers are put in, as no proofs will be necessary, as all the facts are stated by the bill and admitted by the answers, the cause may be set down to be heard upon the bill and the answers, and the court may decree the deposit to be paid to Deepchund, he making satisfaction for what if any thing may be due to him from us.

126. If any of the facts are mistated in the bill or answers, or any other circumstances have occurred which have not come to our knowledge and may be material to the case, the bill and answers must be altered in these respects, and particularly if the Company have no demand on Deepchund then so much of the bill and of your answer as has relation to such demand must be struck out of the one and the other.

127. And in order to keep Wazeed from making any application to the *darbar* in the meantime, it may be proper to advise him and Deepchund with your proceedings, and to let them know that the forms of our laws make them necessary, but that you are in hopes soon to have the deposit at liberty, and that you will do them all the justice you can as soon as you have it in your power.

128. We have considered of the 134th and subsequent paragraphs of your General Letter of the 8th February 1755 in relation to a dispute between the Mayor's Court and Mr. Holwell as *Zemindar*, occasioned by a decree of his in *cutcherry* between Mr. Demondtaguy and his wife and Sarah Shadow.

129. We are sorry to find questions arise between the Mayor's Court and the *Zemindar* about matters of jurisdiction; if both parties would confine themselves to what properly belong to each, these disputes might be avoided, but we have not at present time to consider their several powers so as to give particular directions thereon.

130. With respect to the matter immediately before us in regard to the cause between Demondtaguy and his wife and Sarah Shadow, and Mr. Holwell's decree in *cutcherry*, it seems to have been irregularly taken up by the Mayor's Court.

131. A court of justice cannot take cognizance of any thing that happens unless it comes before them regularly in their judicial capacity in the ordinary and common form and course of proceedings, notwithstanding every member of the court may in his private capacity know and be acquainted with the fact and may in his own private judgment either approve or condemn it.

132. The first thing that appears in the proceedings of the Mayor's Court is a petition from Demondtaguy and his wife to be appointed guardians to Sarah Penis, a minor.

133. The Mayor's Court ought to have proceeded upon this petition, and upon the hearing of it should either have dismissed the petition or appointed the guardians as prayed; instead of this the Court, officiously and by a kind of intuitive knowledge, ask why Sarah Shadow, who made no application and whose name does not before appear, did not petition for the guardianship; and upon this the Court was informed of the proceedings in the *cutcherry*, and that the reason she did not apply was that she was afraid of incurring the displeasure of the *Zemindar*. The Mayor's Court upon this information and without any kind of proof as to the facts alledged take upon them to act in the nature of complainants, in a matter wherein they also intended to be judges,

and order Mr. Holwell to pay unto the Accountant General the value of certain particulars which he as judge in the *cutcherry* had ordered to be delivered over unto Demondtaguy and his wife, which order had been complied with.

134. The whole of this transaction we apprehend to have been irregular, there being no complaint depending before the Court nor any evidence produced upon which they could ground such proceedings. They were introduced from the private knowledge of the members, and the information of Mr. Dumbleton, and the orders made in consequence were without a proper foundation, and without hearing of the parties interested therein but seem calculated on purpose to create a dispute between the Mayor's Court and the *Zemindar* in a matter of jurisdiction, and that in a manner it was not possible to receive a proper determination so as to avoid a like dispute in any other case.

135. The proper method for the Mayor's Court to have taken was to have appointed a guardian, and if sufficient matter had judicially appeared before them that the minor had suffered any injury, they might so far have taken notice of it, as to have recommended it to the guardian to have brought a bill in the name of the infant against the proper parties, stating the fact, the proceedings and decree in the *cutcherry*, and praying to have the particular things or the value of them paid or delivered over for the infant's benefit under the direction of the Court.

136. To this bill Mr. Holwell and all the other parties must have made their proper defences, and issue being joined and witnesses examined, the whole merits of the case would then properly have come before the Court and whatever order the Mayor's Court had then made, if Mr. Holwell or any other party had thought himself aggrieved, such party might have appealed to the Governour and Council and so on to the King and Council, and the whole merits of them with the proofs in support of them appearing upon the face of the proceedings a proper decree might have been pronounced such as would have been final and would probably have put a stop to future questions of this kind. And if any case of the like kind should hereafter arise, and it cannot otherwise be settled, which we had rather it should, this method must be pursued.

137. In answer to the 145th paragraph of your General Letter of the 8th December 1755.

138. The tryal of the persons you mention for the murder of Captain Thomas Moore should have been had by virtue of the commission of the 5th of His present Majesty, which is grounded upon the Acts of Parliament therein mentioned, and which directs these tryals to be according to the civil law and the rules and methods of the Admiralty. By the civil law no juries are required, but the commissioners acting upon such tryal under the before-mentioned commission, upon hearing of the evidence for the prosecution and for the prisoner, are by a majority of voices to determine whether a prisoner is guilty or not of the matters for which he stands accused, and this method must for the future be persued in all tryals for the offences mentioned in this Charter committed upon the high seas.

139. The tryal of the *syrang*, *tindall* and *lascars* if tryed at all should be by virtue of His Majesty's commission and in the manner above prescribed,

and though pirates are considered as enemies to all nations and countrys whatsoever and are therefore not entitled to the benefit or laws of the country to which they may belong, and may therefore be tryed and if found guilty executed by virtue of His Majesty's commission, yet as such a proceeding may involve us and our affairs with the country Governments, we must leave you to act in this matter as upon mature consideration and taking in all circumstances you in your own discretion shall think fit.

140. We do not find that you have transmitted to us the consultations upon this matter to which you refer in this paragraph but we are of opinion that the *Zemindar* cannot take any conizance of offences committed upon the high sea.

141. We have considered of the several questions proposed to us in your 147th paragraph to which we shall give our answers in the order you have ranked them.

1. We are of opinion you are not authorized by His Majesty's Charter for establishing the several courts of justice in India to grant letters of marque in case of a war between Great Britain and other European nations.

2. Such offences as are mentioned in ye commission of the 5th of His present Majesty and which may happen to be committed upon the high seas or within the Admiral's jurisdiction, must be tryed by the commissioners in the manner directed by that Charter, with the interposition of a grand or petit jury, and such commissioners may proceed to sentence of death if the nature of the case requires it.

All criminal offences committed at land must be tryed before the commissioners of oyer and terminer upon indictments found by a grand jury, and the prisoner must be found guilty or acquitted by the petit jury. Actions for assault or other matters of a private nature arising on ship board or at sea between man and man may be tryed by the Mayor's Court in the same manner as other actions of the like nature arising at land are tried and determined.

3. When a court of admiralty is held and the business for which it was more immediately called is finished, so that there is nothing further to be done, the court should be continued by adjournment to some future [date] and so from time to time to be kept on foot by adjournment, and in case sentence is passed by a court of admiralty and no warrant issues for execution, a subsequent court of admiralty composed of such persons as are described in the Charter, though not consisting of the same identical persons as the former, or other court, may sign a warrant for execution of the sentence pronounced by the former or other court.

4. If a warrant for execution is signed and afterward circumstances come to light in favour of the prisoner, we are of opinion that the same persons who signed the warrant for execution, or not less than a like number of the justices, may respite the execution of such warrant for a certain time not longer than the next sessions, and then the matter should come before the commissioners or justices who may either order another warrant for execution to be signed or give the prisoner such further respite as under the circumstances of the case shall appear to them to be reasonable.

5. If a prisoner is condemned by the laws to suffer death the Court may suspend the issuing of a warrant for the execution of the sentence but

they cannot alter the punishment, nor suffer the prisoner to go at large, but must continue him in custody till the King's pardon can be obtained.

142. Great preparations are making for carrying on the war between the British and French nations with the utmost vigour, and the French have been very industrious in fitting out the armament at Port L'Orient for the East Indies, mentioned in our short letter of the 29th of December last, which, we have been since informed, is more considerable than therein advised. We shall avoid entering into particulars here, as agreeable to our desire the Secret Committee will from time to time communicate to your Select Committee whatever occurs on so interesting a subject.

143. His Majesty has been graciously pleased to order a squadron to proceed to the East Indies under the command of Commodore Charles Steevens consisting of the following ships viz.,

Rates	Ships	Men	Guns	Captains
3d	<i>Elizabeth</i>	480	70	Richard Kempenfelt
—	<i>Yarmouth</i>	520	70	Robert Frankland
4th	<i>Weymouth</i>	420	60	Nicholas Vincent
—	<i>Newcastle</i>	350	50	Thomas Howard Huchenson
6th	<i>Queenborough</i>	160	24	George Legge

which squadron sailed the seventeenth instant; what further relates to this squadron will come from the gentlemen of the Secret Committee to your Select Committee.

144. Should the Admirals Wattson and Pocock have left India, then Commodore Steevens, or the Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's squadron for the time being, is to have the allowance of forty shillings a day, paid to him to defray the expence of house rent and for keeping a table, in the like manner as was directed with respect to Mr. Wattson, and in general the directions then given as well with regard to the civilitys to be shewn to Admiral Wattson and the officers of his squadron as the transactions with them on business are to be your guide in all affairs with Commodore Steevens and the squadron under his command whenever there is occasion for their being in Bengal.

145. For the benefit of stowage we have directed all coils of cordage from five inches inclusive and upwards belonging to us to be uncoiled, but as some of the owners have objected to this from an apprehension of their being charged with the short weight that may happen on delivery, we have agreed not to make such charge on them, provided each rope has two fagg ends and a white thread in one strand of every rope, but do you however apprize us of the deficiency in weight for our information.

146. The raw silk from Bengal having been great[ly] complained of by the buyers here for some years past, we send by the ship *Elizabeth* Mr. Richard Wilder to examine into the causes of its being bad, and as he has been conversant in raw silk during his whole life, and is a perfect judge of it from the worm to its being made fit for the weaver, we direct that you send him with all convenient expedition to Cossimbuzar that he may be on the spot where silk is produced and give his advice and opinion in what manner the abuses may be rectified; the faults complained of have been many, but the principal has been that in the same skain it is common for the silk to run part of it

single, part double, treble and even quadruple, all which should run single; the manner of its being sent has been in bales, the fineness of which was always intended to be particularized by their being marked with the letters A, B, C, D, E; the first the finest and so progressively to the E the coarsest, but it now perpetually happens that there is not that regard to the letters which there should be, and which was formerly, it being very common to have many of the bales of the fine letters coarser than those of the inferior letters and some D and E finer than B and C, and there has been great difference in the quality and fineness of the same letters and have sold accordingly at the Company's sales. These are errors which must be looked into and rectified or the Company must drop the importation of this article; at the two different seasons of the year when the raw silk is produced Mr. Wilder will then have a full opportunity of seeing what has occasioned these complaints and may give his opinion and advice thereon, not only to the Company's servants but to the Nati[ves] who raise the silk, and as there are various sorts produced in Bengal, he will inform you fully which will be most suitable for our market, and can give every direction relative thereto in the fullest and clearest manner, and it will be for our interest that you have the closest attention to his opinion in this affair. At his coming away from Bengal, we would have him leave with you in writing the remarks that he shall have made upon this article in the clearest manner for the instruction of you, and your successors, and copies thereof to be sent to us by different conveyances, and we direct that he continue in Bengal till the year 1749 [sic] and that he depart thence so as to be at Madrass in a proper time that year to take his passage on such ship as the Company shall appoint to receive him there, to carry him to China to execute such orders as he shall receive from the Court of Directors who have entered into a contract with him for a term of years, copy of which we now send in triplicate for your information and observance.

147. You are to signify our pleasure to Mr. Wilder in writing with respect to his proceeding for China as beforementioned so as to prevent any disappointment.

148. As you on the spot will be much better able to furnish Mr. Wilder with the necessary hints, observation and instructions to answer our intentions than we can possibly do, we expect that you will accordingly give him the utmost assistance in your power.

149. You will observe by the agreement with Mr. Wilder he is to be allowed the clear yearly sum of four hundred pounds, for the term of five years, or as long as he continues in the service, but you will likewise take notice that the said four hundred pounds a year is to be paid by us in England and therefore no part thereof is to be advanced or paid him in India.

150. During Mr. Wilder's residence in Bengal you are to pay him for his subsistence and instead of diet money, after the rate of ten pounds sterling for every calendar month, to commence from his arrival, and you are to take care that he at all times be provided with a convenient and suitable apartment wherever he shall be resident.

151. Over and above the allowances aforesaid you are to discharge all the expences he shall be at in going from place to place by sea or land, as well as all extraordinary expences incurred by him in the execution of his

trust, which said expences, not having been otherwise before paid him, are to be paid on his certifying the particulars to you under his hand, on making oath to the truth thereof if required.

152. Upon his departure for China you are to provide him a convenient and suitable passage on one of the Company's ships or other good conveyance that offers for Fort St. George, and you are to furnish him with every thing necessary for his voyage to China, or a sum of money in lieu thereof according to the agreement.

153. You are to signify to the President and Council at Fort St. George the business Mr. Wilder is proceeding upon to China, and that it is our pleasure they afford him all necessary accommodations during his stay at Fort St. George and facilitate his passage for China as much as in them lyes; that our said President and Council may the better know what assistance Mr. Wilder will want from them it will be proper for you to inform them what necessities or moneys you have supplied him with for the voyage.

154. You are to keep an account of all moneys advanced and paid to Mr. Wilder, and you are to transmit attested copies thereof from time to time to us as conveyances offer.

155. It has not been convenient to us to send a great quantity of treasure by the Coast and China and now by the ships for the Coast and Bay, for the service of our Presidencies of Fort St. George and Fort William than what is specified in the respective ships' invoices, but we intend to send such a supply to Bombay as we believe will enable the President and Council there to make you a considerable remittance, and shall accordingly give particular and positive directions for that purpose.

156. Having with great attention considered the state of the *Zemindary* during the time it has been under the management of Mr. Holwell, it is apparent to us from the accounts you have transmitted that our revenues in Bengal have been greatly encreased, and this has been done without imposing any new duties or oppressing the poor; if it had been otherways you would and ought to have given us the necessary informations; with respect to the judicial part of his office we must take it for granted that he has acted with the greatest integrity and lenity, and there appears nothing to the contrary upon the face of your consultations where we must have found them, had there been any reasons to have appealed from his decrees.

157. Considering therefore the great service Mr. Holwell has already done, and the further services we have the greatest reason to believe he will render the Company, we do agree to allow him an additional salary of four thousand current rupees a year to his former one of two thousand rupees, making together the sum six thousand current rupees a year, to commence from the date of this letter; the salary is to be paid him so long as he continues in the post of *Zemindar* and is to be in lieu of all fees and perquisites whatsoever, but it is our pleasure he continue in the rank and standing in Council he shall be in at the time this letter shall come to your hands and not to rise to a higher station therein without our further orders.

158. In case of the death or coming away of Mr. Holwell you are not to allow the said additional four thousand rupees or any part thereof to any person that shall succeed to the post of *Zemindar*.

159. We have so frequently and strongly recommended the encouraging the inhabitants and in particular the relieving the poor and preserving them from oppressions that we need only say we shall depend upon you as well as Mr. Holwell to take all prudent and necessary measures to answer our good intentions.

160. It has been said that the number of people at Calcutta have of late been greatly diminished, we shall be glad to be informed whether this is the case or not; you are therefore to make an enquiry into the same, and if you find it so, you are to give us the reasons according to the best of your judgment for such decrease.

161. And as great complaints have been made for some time past of the decay of trade in Bengal, you must likewise give us your thoughts hereupon and what you apprehend to be the true reasons thereof.

We are,

Your loving friends,

P. Godfrey / John Payne / R. Drake / M. Impey / Christo. Burrow / M. Western / Cha. Gough / Thos. Ross / Lam. Sullivan / Henry. Savage / John Dorrien / Stephen Law / Will. Barwell / John Manship / Hy. Crabb Boulton / N. Newnham Junr. / J. Raymond.

London, 25th March 1757.

2

LETTER DATED 27 APRIL 1757

James Mace appointed Chief Engineer in Bengal Presidency—Personnel of the new Secret Committee.

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Since closing our General Letter of the 25th of March we have entertained Mr. James Mace, a gentleman of great abilities and experience as an engineer, to be our Chief Engineer at the Presidency of Bengal, as also Captain of the artillery company, but as he did not arrive from Gibraltar time enough to take his passage on one of the Coast and Bay ships he proceeds by the way of Bombay in order to get to his proper station as soon after as the season will permit and a good conveyance offers; what further relates to this gentleman and his employment will be mentioned in a short letter by the way of Bombay.

2. Since the dispatch of our beforementioned General Letter there has been a new election of Directors of whom the following gentlemen are appointed the Secret Committee with the same powers as the last vizt., John Payne, Laurence Sullivan, Christopher Burrow, Peter Godfrey and Jones

2 Since the Dispatch of our beforementioned
General Letter there has been a new Election of Directors of
whom the following Gentlemen are appointed the Secret-
Committee with the same Powers as the last vizt: John
Payne, Laurence Sullivan, Christopher Burnet, Peter
Godfrey and John Raymond Esq. to two first named
Gentlemen being the present Chairman and Deputy Chairman
to the Court.

We are:

[illegible]

Facsimile copy of the letter on the opposite page

Raymond Esqrs., the two first named gentlemen being the present Chairman and Deputy Chairman to the Court.

We are,

Your loving friends,

John Payne / Lau. Sullivan / P. Godfrey / J. Raymond / Thos. Rous / Thos. Phipps / Henry Plant / Henry Savage / John Browne / Geo. Dudley / Timothy Tullie / John Dorrien / Maximin. Western / John Raymond / Henry Hadley / Charles Chambers / Cha. Gough / G. Steevens / Christr. Burrow.

London, 27th April 1757.

3

LETTER DATED 4 MAY 1757

Chief Engineer to build defences for Fort William and to have a seat at the Council while the work is in progress.

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. In our last General Letter of the 25th of March we hinted to you that we had some prospect of engaging in the Company's service a gentleman of tried abilities and known skill as an engineer, we are now to inform you that we have actually entertained Mr. James Mace to be our Chief Engineer at the Presidency of Bengal, but as he did not arrive from Gibraltar time enough to take his passage to you on the Coast and Bay ships he proceeds by the way of Bombay in order to get to his proper station as soon after as the season will permit and a good conveyance offers; in the meantime we have given directions to the President and Council at Bombay to take the advantage of Mr. Mace's thoughts, projects and assistance during his stay at that Presidency.

2. In the present situation of a French war we could not but have some apprehensions of Fort William being attacked by the enemy, but as upon the death of Colonel Scott we were at a loss for a fit and capable person to put it in a proper state of defence, we fixed upon Mr. Brohier for that purpose if he could be spared from his duty on the Choromandel Coast and accordingly in our said General Letter we sent you the necessary directions for proceeding upon the works; whether that gentleman may have been with you is very doubtful, but if it happens that he is at Fort William upon the arrival of Mr. Mace, he is as soon after as may be convenient to return to Fort St. George after he has given such information, advice and assistance as may be of use to Mr. Mace.

3. Mr. Mace having no separate powers from us as Engineer, he is to act under your direction. You are therefore to give him the necessary orders from time to time and furnish him with copies of such parts of our letters

and your own proceedings as may be useful to him and of whatever else may be material for his information.

4. In general wee sent you our directions for the works at Fort William upon the supposition of Mr. Brohier's conducting them; they will serve in the present case with little variation. Wee shall therefore proceed upon that plann in what follows:—

5. Since the death of Colonel Scott wee observe the affair of the fortifications has fallen under the directions and thoughts of different people whose sentiments are accordingly various, and in particular Mr. Simpson seems to think that gentleman's planns inconvenient and expencive. This with all other opinions must therefore be well weighed and considered by you previous to your engaging in or carrying on any expencive works.

6. Notwithstanding the directions in our General Letter of the 11th of February 1756, on being informed of the death of Colonel Scott, to suspend the carrying into execution that gentleman's project, the President in concert with the Select Committee and with you as our General Council are when necessary to concert with Mr. Mace the proper measures for immediately rendering our settlement at Fort William defencible against the French or any other European force; he is to be furnished with any planns and projects of the late Mr. Robbins' as well as Colonel Scott's that are procurable and likewise such as may be formed by Mr. Brohier; he is to have all necessary informations, intelligence and advice, from all which he is to consider of and form a plann for a fortification which according to the best of his judgement will be effectual in the present conjuncture as well as for the future at the least possible expence. After the President in concert with the Select Committee and you as our General Council when necessary have well considered the said plann together with an estimate of the time, expence, materials and workmen necessary to compleat it, if you approve thereof, you are to carry the same forthwith into execution in the manner and method laid down in our several letters of late, particularly such as were given during the time of Colonel Scott.

7. In forming all schemes and projects, you are constantly to bear in mind that the charges and expences attending the carrying them into execution are not to be defrayed out of a publick treasure but are to be borne by a sett of merchants out of the precarious profits of trade. This distinction if duly attended to will be the means of preventing heavy, improper and all unnecessary expences by suiting your projects to the circumstances as well as the intentions of the Company. The object you are never therefore to lose sight of must be that of confining your works to a contracted plan and avoiding those great designs hitherto projected by making such fortifications only as may be defended with a reasonable number of men against any enemy.

8. Should you upon the arrival of Mr. Mace have previously agreed to and proceeded upon a plaun of Mr. Brohier's, yet the same is to be reconsidered and such parts thereof adopted or left out or a new one formed in the manner before directed, in which you are to desire Mr. Brohier to give an assisting hand if he is on the spot, as well to explain his own as to give his thoughts upon any new proposals.

9. Mr. Mace must, whenever the fortifications and works are under consideration, have a seat and a voice at the Council Board, and agreeable

to the method at Fort St. George you are to appoint a standing committee to consider the ways and means for carrying on the works with oeconomy and to the greatest advantage as well in providing materials as in all other branches. Such a committee must constantly subsist and Mr. Mace must be always a member of it, and they are to report their proceedings from time to time to the Council Board for your information and are to carry into execution all such directions as you shall think proper to give them.

10. Wee shall expect by the earliest conveyances the necessary plans, drawings, sections, estimates of the expences and other particulars necessary for our information with respect to the works to be constructed and carried on by Mr. Mace under your direction; these wee should have been glad to have been furnished with before giving possitive directions for beginning the said works, but as the present dangerous juncture will not admit of such a necessary precaution, wee must recommend it to you to begin with such part of the plann as will be of the most immediate use and may be of future utility even upon the supposition that wee should not approve of the whole of Mr. Mace's plann or project.

11. As during the proceedings in this work as well as previous to the undertaking them many things may occur in which great secrecy will be necessary, such therefore are to fall under the cognizance of and be transacted by the Select Committee to be communicated to you when they shall judge it safe and proper.

12. Wee have agreed to allow Mr. Mace in full consideration for his services as the Company's Chief Engineer of the Presidency in Bengal the salary of three hund[red] pounds a year sterling and, in consideration of the services he may render the Company during his residence at Bombay as before hinted, wee have further agreed that it shall commence upon his arrival at that place; what part of his salary therefore may be paid him there the President and Council will give you advice of as they have our directions for that purpose.

13. Although it is no part of our agreement with this gentleman to find him an house or an apartment, yet wee would have you accommodate him upon his arrival or as soon after as may be conveniently done if you can possibly spair one; but it is not intended that the Company should be at any expence in hiring an apartment for him.

14. If Mr. Mace is at any extraordinary expences in the execution of his office of Engineer, they are to be born and paid by the Company; as you must be the best judges of what are to be deemed so, wee shall leave the same to your determination.

15. Besides the office of Engineer, wee have granted a commission to Mr. Mace to be captain of our artillery company in Bengal lately commanded by Mr. Jasper Leigh Jones deceased and at present held provisionally by Mr. Lawrence Witherington; he is to take upon him the command immediately upon his arrival and his salary of £200 a year as captain is accordingly to commence from that time. This company is in all respects to continue upon the footing of the establishment of the 17th of June 1748 and our subsequent orders,

16. Captain Witherington is according to your agreement with him to be restored to his rank in the battallion.

17. We have lent to Mr. Mace the sum of two hundred pounds sterling to be repaid out of his salarys as Chief Engineer and captain of the company of artillery or out of the effects he shall carry with him or be afterwards possessed of, according to the tenor of the bond which you will receive by the way of Bombay in the ship on which he takes his passage from thence; you are accordingly to receive the same in such a manner as may not any way distress him.

18. Having furnished Mr. Mace with several mathematical instruments and other particulars according to the enclosed list, they are always to be looked upon as the property of the Company and whenever he leaves Bengal they are accordingly to be delivered to you.

We are,

Your loving friends,

G. Steevens / P. Godfrey / Timothy Tullie / Thos. Phipps / Geo. Dudley / Thos. Rous / Heny. Savage / John Payne / J. Browne / Christo. Burrow / John Manship / Henry Plant / Hen. Hadley / Charles Chambers / Lau. Sullivan / Rob. Jones / M. Impey / Maximn. Western / Cha. Gough / John Dorrien.

London, 4th May 1757.

4

LETTER DATED 3 AUGUST 1757

Receipt of news of the loss and recapture of Calcutta—Disapproval of dictatorial powers given to Clive by the Madras Government, though confident that he would not exercise them to the prejudice of the Company—Appointment of a new Council with President changing every month and of a Select Committee of five members—Dismissal of Drake for the loss of Calcutta—Advice to reach an accommodation with the Nawab.

TO Robert Clive Esqr. (if in Bengal), William Watts Esqr., James Kilpatri[ck], Messrs. Chas. Manningham, Richd. Beecher, Paul Richard Pearkes, William Frankland, Matthew Collett, William Mackett, Peter Amyatt, and Thomas Boddam, the General Committee for conducting the Affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies at Fort William in Bengal.

1. On the 4th of June wee received by the ships *Edgecote* and *Portfield* from Bombay and the *Chesterfield* from Fort St. George the melancholly news of the loss of Fort William and the rest of the Company's settlements in Bengal; on the 22nd of July Mr. Holwell who arrived at Plymouth in the *Syren* sloop gave a most agreeable turn to our thoughts by bringing advice

of the recapture of Fort William by Admiral Wattson's squadron and the forces under the command of Colonel Clive. Besides the General and Select Committee letters by those conveyances wee have received the several separte addresses of many of our servants in Bengal relative to the beforementioned event.

2. Upon the arrival of the *Syren* wee determined to send forthwith some directions more immediately necessary for the conducting the Company's affairs which wee now do by the *Expedition* packet, burthen 55 tons, of which Capt. James Barton goes commander.

3. The readiness of Admiral Wattson¹ to give all the assistance in his power for the recovery of our settlements and his conduct and behaviour in general meritt our utmost gratitude and thanks, and if he is in Bengal you are to signifye the same to him in the gentlest manner.

4. Although we do not propose by this conveyance to make any observations, yet the extensive and dictatorial powers given by the Select Committee of Fort St. George to Colonel Clive are too striking to pass unnoticed, and notwithstanding wee are well satisfied from the moderation of that gentleman he will make no use of them to the Company's prejudice, yet wee cannot avoid saying they were powers which no one person in the world ought to be vested with and the Governor and Council of Fort St. George or the Select Committee had no authority whatsoever to grant.

5. Upon duly considering the scituation of affairs in Bengal and the impossibility of forming a true judgement at present on the conduct and behaviour of our servants in the late troubles, wee have determined to suspend for the present the method of conducting the Company's affairs by a President and Council and wee do accordingly hereby revoke and make void the commission sent by the *Chesterfield* dated the 11th February 1756 and wee do direct that for the present and until wee are enabled to grant a new commission the undernamed persons be upon sight hereof a committee which is to have the same power and authority as the President and Council have been usually invested with and are to manage and transact the Company's affairs accordingly viz.,

Robert Clive Esqr., if in Bengal

William Watts Esqr.

Major James Kilpatrick,² but never to
rise higher in this Committee
than third in station

Mr. Charles Manningham³

Mr. Richard Becher⁴

Mr. Paul Richard Pearkes

Mr. William Frankland

Mr. Matthew Collett⁵

Mr. William Mackett⁶

Mr. Peter Amyatt

Mr. Thomas Boddam.

6. If Colonel Clive should be returned to his station upon the coast of Choromondel as wee have reason to believe will be the case, then Mr. Manningham is to take place of Major Kilpatrick as second in rank; and in

case of vacancies by death or absence in the stations of first and second the next in turn below the Major are to fill up such vacancies.

7. Colonel Clive, Mr. Watts and Mr. Manningham are to preside in the said committee for a month each in their turns, but in case of the death or absence of any of the said gentlemen the first and second for the time being are to preside alternately.

8. Wee further direct that the following named persons be a select committee to manage and transact affairs upon the plan laid down in our General Letter of the 11th of February 1756 viz.,

Robert Clive Esqr, if in Bengal
William Watts Esqr.

Major James Killpatrick, but never to
rise higher in this committee
than third in station.

Mr. Charles Manningham
Mr. Richard Becher

9. As it is proposed this committee should always consist of five persons, in case therefore of the death or absence of any of the beforementioned, Mr. Frankland is to fill up such vacancy, and the gentlemen composing this committee are to preside monthly in turn as directed with respect to the general committee.

10. The difficulty wee are under to determine absolutely to what causes in general and to whose misconduct in particular wee are to ascribe the immense loss the Company as well as their servants and private merchants have sustained in that of their settlements in Bengal hath determined us to wave fixing for the present a President and Council, but the publick voice running so strong against the late President Mr. Roger Drake Junr,⁷ and the great inveteracy which the Nabob hath conceived and expressed (whether justly or injuriously) against that gentleman, as has been represented by Admiral Wattson from a letter he had received from the Nabob and hath also appeared by that to President Pigot at Fort St. George and wee have since been informed of from Colonel Clive, these reasons have laid us under a necessity of leaving Mr. Drake out of the committees beforementioned. Should it be in that unhappy gentleman's power to give us any further lights into his conduct so as to set it before us in a more favourable view than it appears at present, and can so far justify himselfe with the Nabob as to clear himselfe from those imputations by which he hath incurred his displeasure, wee shall always be ready to do him justice.

11. By the last advices from Bengal wee have some reason to flatter ourselves that the Nabob has listned to pacifick measures and that he has agreed to reinstate the Company in their possessions, rights and privileges and made an ample restitution for the losses wee have sustained and the immense expences wee have and shall be put to. Should an accommodation not be entirely agreed to upon the receipt of this, pacifick measures must if possible be the foundation you are to build on as the best means for promoting the commercial interest of the Company and avoiding the heavy expences which a state of war must necessarily produce and the Company at this juncture are so little able to bear.

12. Wee entirely agree with you in the inutility of having garrisons, numerous factorys or buildings which may require a large expence in subordinate settlements; if therefore a pacification has been perfected with the Nabob you must provide that part of your investment which is produced in the different parts of the country at a distance from Calcutta upon the most frugal planss you can devise, consistent with the necessary security.

13. Upon a perusal of the diary during your residence at Fulta wee observe many heavy expences; some of them were in the nature of your scituation most certainly unavoidable but there are others which too evidently shew the little regard had to that frugality which ought most strictly to be attended to in the present circumstances of the Company, and wee do direct that you do not make any extraordinary allowances or payments for the future without our express leave or at least without giving the most convincing and satisfactory reasons for the necessity thereof.

14. Should the gentlemen of our Secret Committee think proper to send any orders or instructions they are to be strictly attended to and obeyed; that Committee under the present direction consists of John Payne Esqr., the present Chairman of the Court, Laurence Sullivan Esqr., Deputy, together with Peter Godfrey, Christopher Burrow and Jones Raymond Esqrs.

15. In the year 1755 a cipher was sent in duplicates to the President Mr. Drake by the *Eastcourt* and *Duke of Dorset* as the same cipher was sent to the other Presidencys. If it has fallen into the hands of the French or others who's inclinations or interest might induce them to make an ill use of it, the consequences might be very bad; you must therefore make a strict enquiry whether it shared the fate of the other books and papers or not, and if it is in being and recoverable the Select Committee must keep possession of it until wee appoint a President who must then have the care of it as was directed at the time it was sent out.

16. If the cypher is certainly lost you must advise the Presidencys of Fort St. George and Bomhay thereof that they may not correspond any more in that cipher either with us or any body else.

17. Upon the supposition that you have lost your seals wee shall send you new ones by the next conveyance.

18. In the first paragraph you are advised of the arrival of the *Edgecote*, *Portfield* and *Chesterfield*. The ships *Suffolk*, *Houghton* and *Godolphin* from China arrived at Leith on the 24th June but for further particulars wee refer you to the accompanying list of the arrival and departure of shipping.

19. Wee have taken into our service this season twelve ships and stationed them according to the accompanying list. You will observe that there [are] only two for the Coast and Bay viz., the *Hardwick* and *London*; wee have deferred taking up any others until wee have some further news from you.

20. Upon the arrival of this sloop in Bengal Capt. Barton quits the command to Mr. George Beer, his chief mate, in which you are accordingly to confirm him. You are without loss of time to put her in compleat order for her return to England, and after having sent aboard your dispatches containing a full account of your scituation and of all affairs material for our information you are to give the commander orders to proceed to Fort St.

George for the like advices from that settlement and then make the best of his way to England.

21. Wee must leave it to the discretion of the Select Committee to give such directions to the commander as may facilitate his passage as well as prevent his falling into the hands of the enemy, and if he should be under the necessity of calling at St. Helena he is to stay there no longer than to refresh the people and then make the best of his way on his voyage without waiting to come in company with any other ship. The commander must be furnished with the signal and instructions on putting into St. Helena which have been transmitted by the Secret Committee to Mr. Drake by the last ships consigned to Bengal.

22. This vessel being intended only for a packet wee have put on board her nothing more than is necessary for the voyage; however if any of her stores can be spared you may take them out for the use of the settlement.

23. We have delivered Capt. Barton 539 ounces foreign silver for the use of this vessel during her voyage; if he offers to pay the same or any part thereof you may receive it into our cash, he rendering you an account of any proportion of it which may have been expended, or should it be necessary to continue the same on board for the vessel's use homewards you may suffer it to be placed in the commander's hands who in that case is to account with us here for the value of what he shall receive from Capt. Barton.

24. Being fully satisfied of the ability and qualifications of Capt. James Barton in marine affairs wee direct that immediately upon his arrival he be appointed the Master Attendant and serve the Company in that station under your direction.

25. The services of John Smith your Deputy Master Attendant and Alexander Scott your head pilot having been represented to us as very extraordinary and that they have been very instrumental in the retaking Fort William by safely conducting up the river the capital ships of Admiral Wattson's squadron on the expedition, and having besides the character of being equal to any trust in the seaway, wee in justice to their merrit recommend your employing them accordingly in such a manner as may be useful to the Company and advantagious to themselves, and in case of the death or absence of Capt. Barton they are to succeed each in his turn to the post of Master Attendant.

26. The Select Committee were advised by the last letters from hence that the French had been very industrious in fitting out a number of ships at Port L' Orient for the East Indies consisting of twelve of the Company's to be joined by six large ships of the King's and two frigates, on board of which about 4000 land forces were to be embarked under the command of Mr. Lally.^a Wee are concerned to say this information is in the main too true, for the publick papers mention the sailing of seventeen sail from Port L' Orient under the command of M. D'Aché on the 30th of April with 3000 regular forces destined according to common report for the East Indies.

27. Wee do hereby direct that your latter Commandant Capt. Minchin^a be for his late behaviour dismissed the Company's service and sent home by one of the first conveyances.

28. The forces sent to your assistance from Bombay has rendered that

settlement in too defenceless a condition in case of an attack by the French and we cannot but be greatly apprehensive for its safety. If therefore you are come to a pacifick accommodation with the Nabob and have not already returned all or the greatest part to Bombay, we must earnestly recommend your sending them back by the first good conveyances, reserving only such part as is absolutely necessary for your garrison.

29. If Admiral Wattson should be gone from Bengal you must take care to forward all the letters addressed to him by this conveyance to wherever he is with the greatest care and expedition.

30. Since writing thus far Mr. George Beer is taken so ill as to render his proceeding the voyage impossible; we have therefore appointed Mr. Thomas James mate of the expedition in his room, who is accordingly to have the command of that vessel when Capt. Barton quits it as mentioned before with respect to Mr. Beer.

We are,
Your loving friends,

James Creed / John Payne / John Manship / Lau. Sullivan / Cha. Gough / P. Godfrey / G. Steevens / Christo. Burrow / John Raymond / J. Raymond / Charles Chambers / M. Impey / John Dorrien / M. Western / Thoms. Rous / Henry Plant / Rob. Jones.

London, 3rd August 1757.

5

LETTER DATED 3 AUGUST 1757

Duplicate of No. (4) above.

TO Robert Clive Esqr. (if in Bengal), William Watts Esqr., Major James Kilpatrick, Messrs. Charles Manningham, Richard Beccher, Paul Richard Pearkes, William Frankland, Matthew Collett, William Mackett, Peter Amyat and Thomas Boddam, the General Committee for conducting the Affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies at Fort William in Bengal.

If by any accident the *Expedition* packet boat or the advices she is charged with miscarry and Captain James Barton should notwithstanding reach Bengal, we have thought it proper to make the following extracts from our General Letter to you dated this day and deliver them to him to be secreted in the best manner he can, upon sight whereof you are to pay a due and most punctual obedience,

N.B. Here were entered paras. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 24 of the General Letter to the abovementioned gentlemen of the 3rd August 1757.

We are,
Your loving friends,
(Signed)

James Creed / John Payne / John Manship / Lau. Sullivan / Cha. Gough / P. Godfrey / G. Steevens / Christo. Burrow / John Raymond / J. Raymond / Charles Chambers / M. Impey / John Dorrien / M. Western / Thos. Rous / Henry Plant / Rob. Jones.

London, 3rd August 1757.

6

LETTER DATED 11 NOVEMBER 1757

Caution against French tactics—Personnel of Secret Committee—Shipping news—Commission of supracargoes—"Casual ships"—Despatch of woollen goods—Necessity of saltpetre—Prohibition of despatch of slaves and malefactors to St. Helena—Advice to reach an accommodation with Nawab—Disposal of captured French ships—Appointment of Council, Select Committee, and Rotation Government.

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Our last General Letter was dated the 25th of March, and went by the *Ilchester*, *Worcester*, *Grantham*, *Fox* and *Elizabeth*; by three of the said ships we writ a short letter of the 27th of April, to acquaint you we had entertained Mr. James Mace to be our Chief Engincer and captain of the artillery company in Bengal; we writ to you again in triplicate under date of the 4th of May last by the Bombay ships, relative only to the works at Fort William, as they were to be carried on by Mr. Macc, who took his passage on one of the said ships.

2. Upon receiving the news of the loss of our settlements in Bengal, and the recovery of them again, we immediately dispatched the *Expedition* packet with a short letter dated the 3d of August, a duplicate whereof is now sent by this conveyance on the *Hardwicke*. She left the *Downes* on the 14th of the same month, but had the misfortune to be taken by a French privateer the 29th, and was carried into Vigo in Spain, where Captain Barton and all the ship's company were set at liberty; although the packets were destroyed, some material parts extracted from the said letter and signed by us were preserved, and the captain and his son are gone forward with them overland, by the way of Aleppo and Bussorah.

3. On the 4th June we received by the *Chesterfield* a General Letter dated at Fulta the 17th September 1756, also letters from several of our servants in Bengal. At the same time the *Edgecote* and *Portfield* from Bombay brought us several others. On the 22 of July we received from the *Syren* sloop your General Letter of the 31st of January last, together with the packets from your Select Committee, and by the *Kings Fisher* we received your General Letters of the 23d of February and the 10th of April, also letters from the Select Committee; the same conveyances brought us also Colonel Clive's letters.

4. We take this opportunity, by the *Hardwicke*, of sending some informations and such directions as are more immediately necessary on the extraordinary revolution in our affairs in Bengal, and must defer our general directions and advices until the dispatch of the ships intended for your Presidency.

5. We cannot but be under some uneasiness on account of the great armament which sailed for India from Port L' Orient last spring, as mentioned in our letters that season and in that of the 3d of August by the *Expedition* packet, but we flatter ourselves that by the timely notice sent to our several settlements such measures have been taken as have and will frustrate the intentions of the enemy, not only against our other Presidencies, but yours likewise by their assistance; the probability of Commodore Steevens's getting to India before it, and the disappointment the French Islands must meet with for the provisions and necessaries which the late blow at Chandernagore has cut off, are circumstances, we hope, have contributed to prevent any great danger on our part. It is too early in the season to get any information of what ships and force are intended from France this year, but as attempts will certainly be meditated and probably to reestablish the French Company in Bengal, we can only, for the present, recommend it to you to be on your guard to defend, according to the best of your ability, our trade and settlements, and prevent, if possible, their getting a footing again in any part of the kingdom.

6. Our Committee of Secrecy this season is composed of the following named gentlemen, viz., John Payne Esqr., the present Chairman of the Court, Laurence Sullivan Esqr., Deputy, together with Christopher Burrow, Peter Godfrey, and Jones Raymond Esqrs., whose directions and instructions or any three of them are to be duly observed.

7. The several ships taken into our service this season and their stations are as follows viz.,

Ships	Tons	Commanders	Consignment
<i>Hardwicke</i>	499	John Samson	Coast and Bay
<i>Prince Henry</i>	499	Thomas Best	St. Helena and Limpo
<i>Osterley</i>	499	Frederick Vincent	China directly
<i>Rhoda</i>	499	John Mc Nemara }	Fort St. George and China
<i>Tilbury</i>	499	Roger Mainwaring }	
<i>Britannia</i>	499	John Blewitt }	
<i>Winchelsea</i>	499	Thomas Howe }	
<i>Shaftesbury</i>	499	Cornelius Inglis }	
<i>Prince of Wales</i>	499	William Roberts }	

Warren . . .	499	Alphonsus Glover . . .	} Coast and Bay
London . . .	499	Richard Alwright . . .	
Egmont . . .	499	John Venner . . .	} St. Helena and Bencoolen
Drake . . .	499	Benjamin Fisher . . .	
True Briton . .	425	Thomas Crichton . . .	} Bombay
Prince George .	499	Lorenzo Collins . . .	
Bombay Castle .	499	Richard Doveton . . .	

8. The *Hardwicke* is now under dispatch, and as has been before-mentioned, brings you this letter ; the *Limpo* ship and that for China directly, together with the ships for Fort St. George and China will leave England about the middle of December, the Coast and Bay ships with the St. Helena and Bencoolen one the end of January, and the Bombay ships about the end of March ; these are the times we have determined upon, and unless such a series of contrary winds as our ships met with last season should set in and unexpected hindrances occur, we hope the several ships beforementioned will proceed on their voyages according to our intentions.

9. We refer you to the accompanying lists for the times and places when and where the several ships from the different parts of India and China have arrived this season, to which likewise you are referred for the departure of the Company's outward bound shipping.

10. Finding it inconvenient, as well on account of the hazard as from other reasons, to send a ship to Madeira this season, we have determined not to order one thither for wine until the next season.

11. We are building for the Company's service a three deck ship of four hundred tons burthen to carry twenty four guns and men answerable. She will be named the *Dispatch* and is to be commanded by Captain William Cooke. She will be launched in a short time. Although she will be able to carry sufficient cargos to render her useful and profitable to us, yet our principal view is to employ her as an advice vessel ; her destination is not yet determined upon or the time of dispatch.

12. The method of transacting the Company's affairs in China by a number of separate commissions having been found inconvenient and disadvantageous in many respects, we have this year appointed one sett or commission only consisting of twelve supracargos, four of whom are to be deemed chiefs, four seconds and four thirds, which twelve supracargos are to be a council for managing the Company's affairs in China and take rank in the order hereafter mentioned viz.,

Chiefs

Mr. Henry Palmer	First in Council
John Burrow	2d
George Mandevile	3d
Thomas Lockwood	4th

Seconds

Robert Mackett	5th
Alexander Hume	6th
Richard Peisley	7th
William Mackenzie	8th

Thirds

Joseph Harrington	9th
Francis Wood	10th
John Hull	11th
James Flint	12th

13. Notwithstanding the beforementioned persons are all included in one commission, yet we have divided them so as to transact the Company's affairs both at Canton and Limpao. Messrs. Palmer, Burrow, Lockwood, Mackett, Hume, Peisley, Harrington, Wood and Hull are accordingly to act at Canton, and Messrs. Mandevile, Mackenzie and Flint at Limpo. Although the Canton and Limpao supracargos will be at different places, still, as before observed, they are members of one commission and council and, as far as circumstances will admit, either in person or by correspondence in writing are to co-operate for the general benefit of their employers.

14. The *Osterley*, Captain Vincent, which will proceed directly to Canton with the woollen consignment, the *Prince Henry* for Limpao, the *Rhoda*, *Tilbury*, *Britannia*, *Winchelsea*, *Shaftesbury* and *Prince of Wales* bound first to Fort St. George and thence to Canton, also the *Hawke* expected to arrive at Canton from Bombay in the year 1758, as likewise all such ships as shall in that year arrive or be at Canton from any of the Company's settlements in India destitute of supracargos, customarily called casual ships, are all to be under the management of the said Council.

15. Messrs. Lockwood and Peisley are now at Canton, Mr. Flint is at Batavia, where the *Prince Henry* will be ordered to take him aboard, to join Messrs. Mandevile and Mackenzie who proceed on that ship.

16. Messrs. Mackett, Hume, Harrington and Hull proceed singly on the ships bound first to Fort St. George and thence to Canton.

17. The China Council will have directions to take upon them the management of what are called casual ships as beforementioned; should you therefore by any unforeseen accidents be at a loss to dispatch home, with the assistance of our other Presidencies, all the ships on your hands without recourse to China, such are to be deemed casual ships, and are to be dispatched to Canton accordingly, and consigned to the said Council with a cargo on each ship to as large an amount as you can spare, not amounting to less in treasure and goods, if you have any of the latter, than twenty thousand pounds.

18. If the *Hardwicke* should take in her loading in Bengal, you are to observe that by the charterparty agreement she carries half kintlage in iron, upon the apprehension of a scarcity of saltpetre; however if a sufficient quantity of saltpetre can be had you are not only to make up the charterparty proportion, but you are to load as much more as she can conveniently carry consistent with her bringing home the more valuable parts of a Coast and Bay investment, and so as not to render her unfit for defending herself properly in case of an attack.

19. The foregoing directions with respect to the *Hardwicke* will serve as a rule for the other ships to be laden home from the Coast and Bay, unless you hear further from us, having a regard however to the proportion of iron

kintlage stipulated for in each ship's charterparty, if any, but you are to take notice that the other Coast and Bay ships will carry no iron kintlage.

20. The quantity of goods to be laden on the Coast and Bay ships, over and above the charterparty tonnage, must depend upon circumstances, and we shall accordingly rely upon your discretion, in concert with our other Presidencies, to load and dispatch home the several ships which are and may be on your hands in such a manner as shall appear most for the Company's interest in general.

21. The present circumstances render it difficult, if not impossible, to give any precise orders with respect to your conduct for providing tonnage for the West Coast surplus pepper ; we must therefore depend upon your care and discretion for managing this branch of affairs in the best manner you can in concert with the Presidency of Fort St. George, bearing this in your mind that only one ship in a season proceeds directly from hence to the West Coast, and if it is possible we would always have such ship be fully laden, but this will greatly depend upon directions from Fort St. George when all circumstances have been duly considered, and of which you will have proper notice from time to time.

22. We have found it necessary to introduce some new clauses into the commander's instructions (as you will observe in Captain Samson's in case the *Hardwicke* comes to Bengal) with respect to destroying the packets entrusted with him in case of danger from the enemy, the sending them up to us from the first port they arrive at in Great Britain or Ireland unless you have any extraordinary and particular reasons to the contrary, to prevent the messengers delivering any private letters whatsoever until their arrival at the East India House, and to conceal all intelligence until the packets are delivered. For fuller information you are referred to the said instructions, which you are upon the dispatch of every ship to remind the commander to observe.

23. You will observe by a new clause in the commanders' instructions that they are to take receipts for all the packets they are entrusted with by us and the Secret Committee to be produced to us upon their return home, that we may be satisfied they are all delivered. You are therefore hereby directed to cause receipts to be given accordingly.

24. The Chief and Council of Anjengo having ordered ten Mallabar men to be transported to St. Helena as slaves (who had been officers to the King of Travencore), five of them soon after their arrival desperately hanged themselves, and the survivors threaten to destroy themselves rather than submit to any kind of work. We mention this instance only, though we could point out others, to prevent your sending such kind of people, delinquents or malefactors of any sort to that island, as the Governour and Council have represented that the having such desperate fellows upon the island may be attended with bad consequences. This is a general order to all our settlements.

25. We are providing the woollen goods intended for the several parts of India and China this season. Those for your Presidency will be about two hundred and twenty bales of cloth, besides which we shall consign to the President and Council of Fort St. George about four hundred and thirty seven bales of cloth and one hundred bales of long clls, which two last articles are

to be forwarded to you if they have not disposed of their old stock of woollens. The export to other places will be nearly as follows viz.,

For Fort St. George: two hundred and thirty one bales of cloth and ten bales of long ells, exclusive of the beforementioned four hundred and thirty seven bales of cloth and one hundred bales of long ells.

For Bombay: thirteen hundred and sixty five bales of cloth, one hundred and thirteen bales of long ells and three bales of camblets and alepines.

For Gombroon and Bussorah: eight hundred and forty three bales of cloth, two hundred and ten bales of long ells and twenty five bales of shalloons.

For Canton: two hundred and fifty one bales of cloth, three hundred bales of long ells and two hundred and forty pieces of hairbines, serges and camblets.

For Limpao: forty bales of cloth and sixty bales of long ells.

26. The President and Council of Bombay will be directed to forward to you such a quantity of broad long ells as they cannot dispose of, it appearing by their last advices that a very large quantity remained unsold. Had it not been for this circumstance, we should have complied with their indent which was for double the quantity we proposed as above to send this season to Bombay.

27. We shall send you this season as large quantities of other merchandize, goods and stores for sale and use as we have tonnage for, and as some part of them will probably be laden on the Coast and China ships, Fort St. George Presidency will forward them as conveyances offer.

28. Notwithstanding the treasure by the *Hardwicke* as well as the several other particulars of her cargo are consigned to Fort St. George, yet we have signified to our President and Council that it is our meaning however that such a part thereof, as are wanted for our service in Bengal and they can possibly spare, are to be sent to you accordingly, and this they are to observe as a rule with respect to future ships' cargos consigned to them unless they have directions to the contrary.

29. The taking of Chandernagore¹ must have been the means of very largely supplying you with ordnance and naval stores, and possibly of assisting Fort St. George in some particulars; we shall therefore in the quantities to be sent from hence this season have a regard accordingly to that supply.

30. Being informed that His Majesty's ship the *Kent* was not in a condition to return to England and is probably condemned, if that happened in Bengal, we hope you have taken the opportunity of requesting the Admiral to spare the Company her guns, upon being accountable to the Government for the value of them. Should the *Kent* not yet be condemned, you must bear this hint in mind if such an event does happen to that or any other of His Majesty's ships.

31. We hope that the consignments for your Presidency which fell into the hands of the Governour and Council at Fort St. George, on your late calamity, have since been all transmitted to you upon the re-establishment of our settlements, and whatever else you may have wanted; we have intimated

the same to Fort St. George, that they may know it is our pleasure they should have a constant attention for sending you such supplies from time to time as are necessary for the service of the Company.

32. As we cannot by this conveyance give you any particular directions with respect to the investment, the list sent last season must for the present be your guide, and you are in general to comply therewith as nearly as you can, agreeable to your situation and circumstances; you are likewise if possible to continue the method, which has been found so advantageous to the Company, of providing the investment at the *aurungs* by *gomastahs*, under the direction of a committee of warehouses.

33. With respect to saltpetre you are to provide in the best manner, and on the most reasonable terms you can, a sufficient quantity for the several ships to be sent home, not only from your Presidency but likewise from Fort St. George and Bombay, to which places we must depend upon your care for forwarding the necessary proportions, as the demand for saltpetre is very great and the Company are by their charter obliged and do now actually deliver to the Government five hundred tons a year; all our ships are to have as much laden on them as they can conveniently bring, without interfering with more valuable investments; for this purpose we would have you, if possible, provide to the amount of two thousand tons in the whole, agreeable to our directions last season as well as the preceding ones.

34. The French armament mentioned in the introduction to this letter would have given us more pain had we not hoped that Commodore Steevens would get to India before it could be made use of greatly to our prejudice, to which adding the probable circumstance of a want of provisions and other supplies it will meet with on arriving at the French Islands by the late blow in Bengal, we say we have great hopes the enemy's designs have been baffled.

35. It is impossible to give you any precise directions for your conduct with respect to the Nabob, as the manner of acting must vary according to circumstances. We must therefore depend upon your prudence and care to act for the best in the various events as they occur, having a particular regard however to the recommendations in our last letter to pursue as much as possible pacifick measures with him, and to endeavour to convince him that it is his as well as the Company's interest to be always on good terms.

36. The security of your Presidency will greatly depend upon the assistance of the Company's other Presidencies. Therefore the mutual harmony we have so often recommended must be carefully cultivated as the best means to protect and defend the Company's possessions, trade and privilege; the good effects of their endeavours for the re-establishment of our settlements in Bengal are very apparent, and we have reason to expect they will continue their attention and care.

37. We are under great obligations to Admiral Watson and in our letter of the 3d of August we directed you to signify the same to him (if in Bengal) in the gentlest manner, and as Colonel Clive has had a great share in the several transactions in Bengal, which have been so greatly to the Company's advantage, you are to inform him that we have a thorough sense of his good services.

38. Though contrary winds and other incidents prevented Admiral



Admiral Watson

Pocock² from being present at the retaking of Fort William, we are not without a due sense of his zeal for our service, evinced by the manner he exposed himself at the capture of Chaudernagore, and we do direct you to return him our thanks and assure him of our most grateful sense of his good services.

39. The agreement made with Admiral Watson before his departure from Fort St. George that all plunder and booty to be taken from the Moors in the expedition at Bengal should be deposited until His Majesty's pleasure was known was certainly a very prudent and proper measure, and we have the satisfaction of informing you that His Majesty has most graciously confirmed this agreement by letter patent, in consequence of which the Company are fully entitled to the said moiety by way of compensation for the great damage which they have sustained and of their great expences in the said expedition. We have sent to Fort St. George, by this conveyance, one of the said original grants, which is to be kept by the President and Council there or forwarded to you, wherever it may be wanted; for the more effectual carrying the said agreement into execution we propose to send another by one of the next ships, which being received at Fort St. George, one may then be deposited there and the other in Bengal. Whether we were under any necessity of applying to the crown in this case, or whether our charter may not have vested a right to captures of that nature as well as ships taken by those acting under our commission, we will not attempt at present to determine, but for our information and your better government in future those points are now under the consideration of our greatest lawyers, and their joint opinions shall be forwarded to you by the latter ships.

40. We apprehend the Company have a right to the whole of the prize taken from the French by Commodore James called the *le Indien*, and you ought to have taken charge of the same, but as we find he proposed to carry her to Fort St. George, we hope our servants there have seen this affair in a proper light and secured the produce thereof until they heard from us; in our next advices we intend to send directions not only on this case, but likewise in what manner our servants are to act with respect to captures in general.

41. We writ you a short letter under date of the 4th of May last by the Bombay ships to advise you of our having appointed Mr. Mace our Engineer for the Presidency of Bengal and giving some directions for the constructing proper works at Fort William; we see no reason for deviating therefrom, on the contrary the permission obtained from the Nabob and some other circumstances seeming to favour the plan, you are to proceed thereon agreeable to the said letter, a copy of, which as likewise of Captain Mace's instructions we send by this conveyance, although we hope that gentleman and the originals will have reached you long before this can come to hand.

42. You have desired copies to be sent you of a great number of books and papers, as you advise us all those at Fort William were destroyed on the capture of that place by the Nabob; we have given directions accordingly, and you will receive copies of all such as are apprehended to be material and necessary by the latter ships, but we having reason to believe some of the books and papers of the latest dates have been returned to you by order of the Nabob, you ought to have sent a list of such to us which would have been the means of saving much trouble; however, you must not fail of transmitting by the

first conveyances for our information an exact list of all the books and papers which have been recovered.

43. You are to give us a particular account, agreeable to our letter of the 3d of August, whether the cypher which was in Mr. Drake's custody shared the fate of the other books and papers or not; if it was saved a correspondence is to be carried on with whomsoever it may be necessary according to the original directions, with this addition that every letter for the future must be signed by the persons sending the same (not in cypher) but in the usual manner of writing their names by which method we shall be satisfied of the authenticity of every letter, and prevent impositions; should the cypher be really lost, you must write to the President of Fort St. George to send our President of Fort William for the time being a copy in the most secure manner, and instead of advising our said President and the President of Bombay not to correspond any more in that cypher, as directed in our said letter of the 3d August, we revoke that direction and you are to acquaint them all their letters in cypher are to be signed in the usual manner of signing as before directed with respect to letters from your Presidency.

44. By the latter ships we shall send you directions for the general conduct of affairs; in the meantime you are to proceed as near as possible upon the plans which have been laid down, particularly with respect to keeping our cash, selling goods at publick sales, making investments at the *aurungs*, appointing committees to inspect and take care of the various branches of business, and in particular for auditing all accounts previous to their passing the Council Board; in short, whatever measures may be found useful in points of oeconomy, or any other ways evidently tending to the interest of the Company are to be zealously pursued.

45. By our letter of the 3d August last by the *Expedition* packet, a duplicate whereof accompanys this, and the most material parts of the said letter signed by ourselves which Captain Barton is proceeding with overland, you will observe we appointed a committee to transact and manage the Company's affairs in Bengal as therein mentioned. We have since writing that letter had time to consider, with great care and attention, in what method it will be best in the present critical situation to have them conducted, and are come to a determination that they shall be conducted and carried on by a President and Council in the manner hereafter mentioned, and we do accordingly revoke and make void the directions in the said letter of the 3d of August, so far as relates to the appointment of the said committee, and in lieu thereof, do hereby ordain, constitute and appoint the following named persons to be the President and Council for ordering, governing and managing all the Company's affairs at Fort William in Bengal, and all its dependant places and settlements with as full power and authority as the Presidents and Councils of Bengal have been usually invested with viz.,

William Watts Esqr.

Charles Manningham Esqr.

Richard Beecher Esqr.

John Zephaniah Holwell Esqr.

Major James Kilpatrick who is never to rise higher during this Council than fifth in station

Mr. Paul Richard Pearkes

Mr. William Frankland
 Mr. Matthew Collett
 Mr. William Mackett
 Mr. Peter Anyatt
 Mr. Thomas Boddam
 Mr. Richard Court

46. Mr. Watts, Mr. Manningham, Mr. Becher and Mr. Holwell are to be each of them President of the said Council and Governour of and for all the Company's affairs in Bengal for the term of four months; Mr. Watts is to have the first term to commence upon the receipt hereof, upon the expiration of which first term of four months then Mr. Manningham is to be President for the like term and in this manner they are to succeed each other alternately. On Mr. Manningham's taking the chair Mr. Watts is to take place as second, upon Mr. Becher's taking the chair Mr. Watts takes rank as second, Mr. Manningham as third and so on.

47. As Mr. Court behaved very well and suffered much in the late calamity, we have, in consideration thereof, advanced him to the Council, but you are hereby directed not to take any other person or persons into Council until it's reduced under the number of nine exclusive of the Major, that is to say of ten with him.

48. We not only most earnestly recommend, but we positively order and direct, that you act together with a zeal suitable to the present situation of affairs and the greatest harmony and friendship one with another as the best means to promote the common good of the Company and of recommending yourselves to our future favour.

49. It being necessary in the present situation that there should be a Select Committee to transact affairs with the country Government and other matters which require secrecy, we do hereby direct that the following persons be a Select Committee accordingly viz.,

William Watts Esqr.
 Charles Manningham Esqr.
 Richard Becher Esqr.
 John Zephaniah Holwell Esqr.
 Major James Kilpatrick when military affairs are under consideration and then only.

50. Mr. Watts, Mr. Manningham, Mr. Becher and Mr. Holwell are to preside alternately in the said committee for four months, in the same manner as before directed with respect to the Council.

51. The committee is to consist of four persons only, except when military affairs are under consideration, then it will be five by the addition of the Major as mentioned above.

52. The Select Committee are to proceed upon the plan of our General Letter of the 11th February 1756, but they are to observe that the principal objects of their business are to be the transacting and negotiating matters with the European and Indian powers, so far as secrecy is absolutely necessary and not otherwise, also the concerting the necessary plans and measures for military operations to be laid before the President and Council for their determination

and ordering them to be carried into execution, if approved of ; that committee will easily judge of such, whereof the nature and circumstances require secrecy and that they should not be immediately made publick ; in such they are to use their discretion and reserve as a part of their province as a Select Committee, and correspond with our Secret Committee accordingly thereupon ; in general nothing is to be concealed from the President and Council but what in it's nature and circumstances ought to be really secret, and might be prejudicial to the Company, if discovered, for a time at least ; in consequence, whatever matters and transactions are not of a secret nature must stand upon your consultations and be advised to us in your General Letters, and the rest must be communicated by the Select Committee to our Secret Committee.

53. Mr. Holwell will proceed to his station in one of the latter ships.

54. We are sensible of the sufferings of your Secretary, Mr. Cooke, in the late calamity, and do therefore recommend it to you to favour him whenever an opportunity offers. The behaviour of Mr. William Ellis^d and Mr. John Cartier^e and some particular circumstances attending them have not escaped our notice ; we therefore recommend them also as proper objects for the Company's favour in such manner as you shall find may be conveniently conferred on them.

55. Among the writers Messrs. John Burdett, Henry Lushington and George Gray deserve our notice for their sufferings and good behaviour ; we therefore direct that they have two years of their time given them and that they take rank accordingly.

56. We can but express our satisfaction in regard to the behaviour of several of our servants, who, after the retaking of Fort William, acted as volunteers and behaved very well in that station.

57. In our letter of the 25th of March last you were advised we had appointed Mr. Edward Barwell to be a writer on the Bengal establishment. We have thought fit to remit two years of the five he was to serve in that station, which you are to take due notice of, and he is to rank next below Francis Charlton.

58. We have chosen and appointed the following writers to serve the Company on the Bengal establishment who are to be ranked in the order they are here named viz., James Bart[on?], Charles Bennett, Nicholas Smyth, Thomas Woodward James Ha [. . .], John Wollaston, Russell Skinner, William Steers, Cha. Harrington, Thomas Washington Winter, Oliver Webb, Hillary Van Neck Torriano and Richard Barwell ; as many of these young gentlemen will take passage on the Coast and China ships, we have given directions to the President and Council of Fort St. George to forward them to you by the first conveyances, and in the mean time accommodate them during their stay at that place.

59. Upon the recommendation of the President and Council of Fort St. George as well as that from you, and supposing it will be agreeable to Admiral Watson, we do agree to the Revd. Mr. Richard Cobb's being fixed as one of the Company's chaplains and we leave it to him to make his option either for the Presidency of Fort St. George upon the Reverend Mr. Palk's leaving it, or to continue in Bengal to fill up one of the vacancies at your Presidency, and he is to succeed accordingly either at one or the other.

60. We have been acquainted that Captain Mills and Dickson, the commanders of two country ships, behaved extremely well in the defence of Calcutta, and were among the other unfortunate people thrust into the Black Hole from whence however they happily escaped with their lives. We therefore recommend it to you to take notice of them as persons we have a regard for, if any thing offers for their advantage in the seafaring way in the Company's service.

61. We have appointed the following persons to be cadets in the Company's forces upon the Bengal establishment who are to be preferred, if they behave well, in the order they are here named viz., Thomas Davis, Solomon Parisod and George Buck, the two first of whom now take their passage on the *Hardwicke*.

62. John Baptista and twelve *lascars* who came home in the *Syren* having, in a petition they presented to us, alledged that when they were engaged at Calcutta for the voyage the Master Attendant promised, for their encouragement, they should be paid in England two months' pay over and above their monthly pay, but as no such promise appears either in your letters of consultations or upon the examination of Captain Jones, we have only paid them their monthly pay. However, you are to make a strict enquiry into their allegation, and if you find it to be true, we would have them paid the said extra pay of two months as they shall respectively apply to you for it. For your better information we enclose a copy of the said petition.

63. Since writing the beforegoing, we have taken up another ship for Fort St. George named the *Pitt* let^d for 600 tons to carry 250 men with 50 guns, whereof Captain William Wilson goes commander; her time of dispatch is to be the same as the Coast and China ships.

We are,

Your loving friends,

John Payne / Lau. Sullivan / P. Godfrey / Chrstr. Burrow / J. Raymond /
Charles Chambers / John Manship / Thos. Rous / Heny. Savage / Rob. Jones /
John Dorrien / Cha. Gough / G. Steevens / John Browne / Maximn. Western /
Hen. Hadley / Timothy Tullic / James Creed / Geo. Dudley.

London, 11th November 1757.

LETTER DATED 3 MARCH 1758

Censure of Company's servants—shipping news—Supply of bullion to Madras and China—Manufacture of gun powder—Disposal of unlicensed goods—Investment through gomashas—suggestion of ways for business in settlements in Bengal—Non-maintenance of garrison at Kasimbazar or subordinate settlements—Payment of allowance to covenanted servants—Staff for subordinate settlements—Residence of junior servants at cloth aurangs—

Pleasure at fall of Chandernagore and treaty with Siraj-ud-Daulah—Proposal to secure confirmation of the treaty by the Mughal Emperor—Advice to demolish French fortifications at Chandernagore—Suspicious about Roman Catholic priests—Residence of Armenians within the Company's territories to be encouraged—Disapproval of attachment of Omichand's estates—Exclusion of the French from Bengal—Appreciation of services of Watson, Pocock and Clive—Frugality in construction of fortifications and buildings—Transmission of annual returns of gun powder and military stores—Accounts of covenanted and military servants.

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. The ship *Hardwicke* which sailed from Spithead on the 18th of December carried our last General Letter of the 11th of November 1757, a triplicate thereof goes by the way of Fort St. George in the *Rhoda*, and a copy by the *Pitt*, and for fear of a miscarriage, we now send a duplicate of the said letter by the *Warren*, and a copy by *London*.

2. In that letter we sent you some informations and general directions for the conduct of our affairs, and in particular we appointed a President and Council in the manner therein mentioned. We shall now proceed to communicate our further pleasure with regard to the affairs committed by the authority of that letter to your conduct and management, and give you the orders and directions which shall appear to be necessary at this most critical juncture.

3. As on the late capture of Fort William all your books and papers are said to be lost and destroyed, and in consequence you must be at a loss in many respects for rules of conduct and proper informations, we now send you copies of our letters to you for several years past, and previous to them copies of standing orders; you will also receive many copies of your own books such as consultations, general books and indeed of whatever you have desired, we have thought necessary, and could be got ready; for the particulars of which you are referred to the lists of the packets.

4. As our settlement in Bengal may in its present condition be looked upon as if it was in its infancy, we shall take the opportunity therefore to lay down some plans, and such new rules of conduct in many material cases, as we hope will render it of more consequence to the Company than it ever has been, even in its best condition. We cannot help here remarking that it is a most amazing thing to consider that a settlement so abounding with industrious inhabitants and flourishing in its trade (for a number of years at least) should produce so little profit to the Company. This cannot easily be accounted for otherways than from the luxurious, expensive and idle manner of life which has too much prevailed for many years before the late calamity among all ranks of our servants, the genuine effects of which have been inattention and negligence in most and dishonesty in many.

5. The present juncture requires very different behaviour; the circumstances of the Company, and your own circumstances as individuals, make a reformation absolutely necessary. We therefore most earnestly call upon our superior servants to be careful, industrious and, in particular, to avoid parade and shew, and live with the utmost frugality and oeconomy, to be constantly

attentive to the conduct and behaviour of the inferior servants, to keep them strictly to their proper business and from living beyond the limits of their circumstances. In the course of this letter we shall keep in view this plan, and give our further sentiments with respect to persons and things in the order they arise. We must add that this is a point of time at which your utmost efforts for the service and general good of your employers are more than ordinarily required. [That] you may act herein with an united force, we most earnestly recommend the greatest harmony and friendship among the members of you our Council, and although differences in opinion on many occasions are unavoidable, nay even necessary, yet such differences are not to interrupt the harmony we recommend but are to be entered on your consultations for our notice in a plain and fair manner, without the least mixture of personal resentment or altercation.

First. of shipping

6. In our last letter you was informed we were building for the Company's service a ship of about 400 tons, which it was intended should be called the *Dispatch*; we have since then named her the *Admiral Watson*, in compliment to that brave and deserving officer. She is now proceeding to Persia with a considerable cargo for that market from whence she will go to Bombay. If before her return for England there should be any occasion for sending her your way, the President and Council will give you the necessary informations.

7. Besides the ships mentioned in our last, we have taken up the *Pitt* for 600 tons, to carry 250 men and 50 guns, Captain William Wilson commander. Although she is one of the ships consigned to Fort St. George and China in a mercantile way, it is our intention to make the proper use of her as a ship of force, and for that purpose we have constituted and appointed the commander thereof, the said Captain Wilson, commodore of all ships and vessels freighted by or belonging to the Company now bound to the East Indies and all such as he may meet with or join in the whole course of his voyage outward bound, in the East Indies, China or elsewhere, within the limits of our charter, and homeward bound, until his arrival in England and being directed to protect and defend as much as lays in his power all such ships and vessels: the commanders of the Company's ships, whenever they are in company with the said commodore, are to follow all such orders, directions and instructions which he shall think proper to give them for the purposes aforesaid. These are the general powers with which our said commodore is invested. [but] he is still to act under the direction of the Company's agents agreeable to charterparty and his instructions. In case of the death of Commodore Wilson, the person who succeeds to the command of the *Pitt* is to be the Company's commodore, and is to be regarded and obeyed as such accordingly.

8. Although the destination of the *Pitt* is for Fort St. George and ~~China~~ as before observed, and you may possibly have no connections with her, we have thought proper to give you the foregoing information, that you may make the necessary use of, if there happens to be any occasion for it.

9. Mr. John Hull, who, you have been advised, was appointed one of our supracargoes for China, cannot, on account of his bad state of health, ~~proceed~~ thither; that commission therefore consists of the eleven other persons

10. Being under the present circumstances satisfied of the utility of having some of our supracargoes reside this season round in China, we have accordingly directed Messrs. Thomas Lockwood, Robert Mackett, Richard Peisley and Francis Wood to continue at Canton for the year 1759 for certain purposes mentioned in their instructions not material for your informations; however your being apprized of such a residence may be necessary, especially if you should have occasion to send to Canton at any time a ship or ships described in our last letter under the name of casual ones.

11. The ships *Warren* and *London* by which you will receive this letter are first to call at Fort St. George to land a part of His Majesty's battalion there, as also some consignments; but as the bulk of their cargoes are intended for your Presidency, we have given positive directions for their being forwarded to you with as much dispatch as possible.

12. In settling accounts with the owners of several ships which have been consigned from Bengal to Bombay and particularly of the ship *London*, it is observed, there has been a very considerable difference in the weight of the sugar consigned from the former to the latter place, and that the commanders have represented to the Governour and Council at Bombay that it chiefly arose by taring the bags when new and dry at Bengal and at Bombay with the sugar penetrated into them, which has induced us to repay the owners what they paid for said deficiency; now in order to prevent this in future, if any sugar shall be consigned as beforementioned, the gross tare and nett weights must be put into the invoice at Bengal, and at Bombay the sugar must be weighed gross and compared with the invoice gross weight, and the deficiency charged accordingly.

Secondly, of goods from Europe or from one part of India to another

13. Having in our letter by the *Hardwicke* given you a general view of the consignments of woollen goods for the several parts of India and China, and to your Presidency in particular, we have accordingly laden on these ships, the *Warren* and *London*, the intended proportion for the Bengal market as will appear by the invoices and bills of lading.

14. To the said invoices you are likewise referred for the particulars of the several other goods and stores intended for sale, as also for use, with all which you are as fully supplied as the tonnage for Bengal and other circumstances would admit of.

15. By the *Hardwicke* we consigned to the President and Council at Fort St. George twenty chests of treasure; by the *Pitt* we sent them in silver and gold to the amount of about the value of thirty chests of silver, and five chests of silver on each of the other six China ships. Although this was not so large a supply as we could wish, yet, agreeable to our repeated directions to that Presidency, we shall depend upon your being assisted with a necessary and due proportion thereof.

16. What treasure is consigned to you by these ships will appear by the invoices to which we refer; we shall only take notice that we cannot avoid giving the President and Council of Fort St. George a discretionary power to detain a part thereof for the expences and investment at that Presidency, if it is absolutely necessary, but not otherwise.

17. The said President and Council are directed to attend to the advices they receive from you with respect to sending your treasure, coined or in bullion: the latter no doubt will be most eligible in many respects, especially by saving much time, if in consequence of your late treaty with the Nabob a mint has been set up at Calcutta: you are accordingly to send the earliest notice from time to time to Fort St. George in what manner the treasure is to be forwarded to avoid as much as possible the detention of any ships intended for Bengal.

18. Should the convoy under which the Fort St. George and China ships proceed call at the island of Madeira, we have desired the Company's correspondents there to lade on the Company's ships one hundred and forty pipes of wine in the whole or such a proportion thereof as they can take in, consigning the same to the President and Council of Fort St. George, and the said President and Council have directions to forward to you a large proportion thereof, as far as a moiety, if it can be possibly spared.

19. You must take care to supply in the usual manner, by every ship, our island St. Helena with the proper stores agreeable to the indents you receive from thence. We shall only remark that they have a new channel for supplies of sugar, we mean from the West Coast: the *Oxford* delivered to the amount of fifteen thousand pounds weight, so that it seems if an abatement is made in any articles from Bengal it should be in sugar, but then the one ton per cent every ship is obliged by charterparty to [carry] must be made up in other articles.

20. We observe by your consultations of the 14th of February you had ordered the powder mills at Perrin's to be repaired, and that Major Kilpatrick was to supervise the making of gunpowder with the same grainity which was allowed to Captain Buchanan in our letter of the 25th March last: we gave you our sentiments upon the agreement with that gentleman, and expressed our hopes that it would, agreeable to your assurances, prove a beneficial one to the Company: your late misfortunes have prevented our being convinced thereof, by experience: we can therefore only say that as the manufacture of gunpowder at your settlement is of great importance at this time in particular, we must recommend and leave it to your prudence to have it made of the best quality and in the cheapest manner you can, either by contract or otherwise, as shall be found most advantageous. As you have all the materials on the spot and cheaper than in any other part of India, we are well satisfied that, with proper management, sufficient quantities may be produced not only for our settlements in Bengal but for our other settlements, those on the coast of Chorumandel at least, and we direct that the powder be ever proved by a standing committee, to consist of the Major, Engineer, Storekeeper, and Gunner, whose reports are to be signed, delivered the Board and entered upon consultations with such remarks as may appear necessary.

21. It falls properly under this head to inform you that it is our will and pleasure and express orders, that you do sell all goods and merchandize whatsoever at publick sales in the manner practiced before the capture of the settlement, and as laid down in our several standing orders on this subject. Your own experience, with the books and papers mentioned in the beginning of this letter to be now sent, will sufficiently furnish you with all necessary informations.

22. In order to reduce the price of copper and put an end to the too good understanding we suspected among the dealers therein, and having also a large quantity of that article laying at Fort St. George when our last letters from them were dispatched, we have greatly decreased our investment thereof by this year's shipping.

23. We have met with some insinuations (which, had they amounted to something more like proofs, we should have made a further enquiry into) that it hath encouraged the officers of some of our ships to take on board that commodity unlicensed and for their own account; being determined to prevent such daring breaches of their oath and obligation, and to show our highest resentment to those guilty of them, if you have any regard to our future favour, you are on the arrival of the several ships to cause the strictest search and enquiry to be made for that commodity by every possible method and, in case of a discovery, not only to seize the same, but even grant rewards to discover the proprietor, and report impartially the result of such enquiry to us by the first ships, and you are hereby strictly enjoined to attend to and carry into execution our former orders for the discovery of and seizure of all unlicensed goods in general.

Thirdly, of investments

24. We now send you in a separate article as usual a list of the investment to be made at our settlements in Bengal, the necessary directions, observations and informations being therein sufficiently expressed; you are as strictly to attend to, and comply with them, as if they were here inserted.

25. The provision of the investment in and about Calcutta by *gomastahs* on the plan which subsisted before the troubles was so beneficial to the Company that we cannot think of a better. You are therefore to pursue that method with every addition that can be suggested and shall be found reasonable for its improvement; in particular we earnestly recommend your giving every possible encouragement to bring the weavers to settle in and about the neighbourhood of Fort William on both sides the river, particularly into the thirty eight villages lately acceded to us by the treaty with the Nabob, that as many articles as possible of your investment may be provided in and near the principal settlement particularly with respect to some of the Dacca, Cossajura and Santipore sortments, which we are satisfied may be attempted with good success as well as the coloured sortments of the Calcutta investments.

26. The providing the investment as before directed at the *aurungs* must not however in the least abate your endeavours to procure as large a proportion of every sortment of cloth you possibly can by ready money contracts. We have this method likewise much at heart, and we expect you will pursue it with zeal and attention, and give every possible encouragement to make it answer our well founded expectations of success.

27. Though the method you have adopted and have hitherto for some time past successfully carried on for purchasing goods at the several *aurungs* hath reduced that part of the business of the *cottah* which relates to the prizing of goods there (since the *dadney* merchants have been laid aside) to that of ready money goods only, that still becomes a material object of your attention,

upon which subject we must observe to you that though the methods prescribed are very proper, in directing that the President and Council should themselves attend on those occasions, we have had but too much reason to believe that if it hath been complied with it hath been more for form sake than for that of making a real and careful inspection whether the assorters or junior servants in the *cottah* have done their duty; we do therefore strictly enjoin that in future when any purchases are to be made for ready money, and the goods to be purchased are sorted out for prization or comparing with the musters, that as many gentlemen as can be collected of the Council and even the President (when unavoidable business does not call for his attendance elsewhere) do attend the *cottah* on that service, and carefully inspect the assorting such goods for the better fixing the real value thereof.

28. We have long complained of the heavy expences of the subordinate settlements, the neglects and mismanagements of our servants there as well with respect to the providing the investments as in many other particulars, which it would be unnecessary here to repeat, as we are determined to fall upon other measures, we mean by having the business carried on at each settlement by a smaller number of covenant servants at a certain moderate allowance without the least parade of soldiers, fortifications or even the appearance of military strength, and it is with satisfaction we find by your letter of the 31st of January 1757 that you adopt this plan as the result of experience to be in general of the most utility to the Company.

29. We therefore direct that in future you maintain no garrison or military force at Cossimbuzar or any other of the subordinate settlements, and that no more Europeans or others are kept there than you shall find really useful in the commercial affairs, that our covenant servants have no greater or larger allowances at such settlements than are hereafter mentioned which are to be in lieu of all fees or perquisites whatsoever. We do not mean however they should be precluded the benefit of trade, provided it does not prejudice the Company, which we shall leave to your care and prudence to judge of and restrain, whenever you find occasion for it. You are to attend in a very particular manner to the *darbar* charges, charges general, and charges of merchandize of each settlement and reduce and settle them upon the best and lowest terms possible. The excesses in these articles are some of the principal objects we have had so much reason to complain of as greatly injurious to the Company.

30. As the business at Cossimbuzar, Dacca and Luckipore will we apprehend be pretty near equal, we would have it conducted at each of those settlements by a Chief, a second and two writers and no more; at Ballasore¹ there is to be only a Resident and one writer; at all which places they are to be lodged in the factories or houses belonging to the Company. In regard to the several appointments we refer you to what relates thereto under the seperate head of general rules, instructions and orders.

31. We would have you as much as possible cause the investments to be carried on at the subordinates upon the same plan as that at Calcutta, without the intervention of merchants, *delolls* or brokers by whom the Company have so severely suffered, and here it is necessary to acquaint you that we expect the utmost endeavours be used to recover as much as possible of the outstanding debts due from them, those at Cossimbuzar in particular.

32. The sending annually in rotation a few of our junior servants to reside at the different cloth *aurungs*, we are satisfied, would be attended with most useful consequences both to themselves and the service; it would save them from a habit of idleness and examples of extravagance they are too much liable to in Calcutta; they would soon acquire the country language and a knowledge in cloth from its first principles, and be a check upon the *gomastahs*; by this measure our young servants would acquire an early aptitude to business, and we shall have a constant succession of trained servants for the business of the *cottah*, and in time the whole or the greatest part of the investment might be provided by them to the exclusion of the *gomastahs*, which would be a very great and desirable improvement of your present plan; what encouragement such junior servants should have by way of trade at such *aurungs*, you will be the best judges of, and may regulate so as will give proper encouragement to them, at the same time as to prevent interfering with our investments. We leave the whole of this to your consideration and carrying into execution according to the best of your judgements.

33. From what we writ last year we must suppose you have been making some enquiries as to the utility and manner of a resettlement at Patna.² In order to prevent any further loss of time we leave it to you, if you are convinced it will be for the Company's interest to settle again there, to send one senior servant under the degree of Council and one writer thither upon the most frugal plan to make the necessary enquiries for carrying on business to advantage, and under your directions to make a beginning, but on no account to launch out into schemes of trade. You are to represent to us in the most explicit manner the state of affairs at that place, together with your opinion thereupon and wait for our further orders.

34. We must also leave it to your consideration whether it may not be for the Company's advantage to have a settlement at Agra, we mean only a Resident with a writer or two for his assistance to live in an hired house at a very moderate expence; if you are of opinion it is a proper measure, you must give us your thoughts thereupon, form a plan for such a residence and wait for our further orders, unless the advantages are evident and the expences small, in which cases you are at liberty to make a tryal without waiting longer.

35. Although we have mentioned both Patna and Agra under this head of investments, we are well apprized that the value to the Company will depend in a great measure upon the facilitating the vend of woollen goods, copper, lead and other European articles, in particular the two first; this therefore must fall under your consideration as a very material object of your attention.

36. If it is possible to come to an agreement with the Dutch so that there should be but one purchaser for saltpetre either at Patna, Calcutta or elsewhere, it would be attended with considerable advantage to them as well as this Company, but then this agreement must be settled between the Presidencies and at the same time conducted with great secrecy. Your Select Committee are therefore hereby directed to sound and treat with a committee of the Dutch Presidency at Hughly³ upon this point and report at a proper time their proceedings to you as a Board in order for your determination and final directions.



Alamgir II

37. The badness of the raw silk has been of late the occasion of constant complaint, and unless it is provided cheaper and better, that once valuable article can have no share in our trade. In order to put it on a better footing we last year sent out Mr. Wilder, a person extremely well qualified for that purpose. On him therefore we must have a great reliance for striking out the best rules and methods; there is one thing however we recommend to your and his consideration for carrying into execution, which is that a small portion of *putney* be annually provided at the *putney aurings* on the best terms and sent down to Calcutta to be wound off under the inspection of Mr. Wilder, if there; if he is not, then under some of the Board of whom the Export Warehouse Keeper is to be one; by these means you will be able to form a near estimate of the price which ought to be given for raw silk at Cossimbuzar, as well as be better able to give the necessary directions as to the manner of having it wound; we must also recommend it to you to give our servants at Cossimbuzar directions to get as large a proportion of raw silk wound at the factory under their eye as possible.

Fourthly, of the trade of India, transactions relative to the French, the country Government &c.

38. It is with the utmost pleasure we see the deplorable situation of the Company's affairs greatly retrieved by the taking of Chandernagore from the French, and a treaty of pacification with the Nabob, in general we believe as advantageous and honourable as could then be stipulated. We could have wished for the sake of the many unhappy sufferers that some compensation had been agreed to for the private property taken and destroyed [at] the capture of Fort William. This is so interesting a matter that we cannot think you have or will omit the making the proper applications to the Nabob, if you have the least probability of succeeding, taking care however not to involve the Company's affairs by such applications.

39. Although it is evident the apprehensions of the English force operated very strongly upon the Nabob and possibly induced him to execute a treaty more advantageous to the Company than he would at another time have agreed to, yet when he reflects upon the mutual advantages resulting from it, we flatter ourselves he will punctually observe it. On your parts you must take every opportunity of cultivating a sincere and lasting friendship with him, the securing of which is one of the great objects on which the success of our affairs in Bengal almost entirely depends.

40. We could be glad that the said treaty had the confirmation of the Great Mogul⁴, and if ever an opportunity offers for that purpose we recommend it to you to use your best endeavours to procure it. Whether since the revolution at the court of Delhi, this is a practicable measure you are the best judges, and will shape your conduct according to circumstances.

41. In order to engage and conciliate the Nabob as much as possible to the Company, we have writ a letter to him, and accompanied it with a present, consisting of several curiosities and particulars as by the enclosed account, which we hope will prove agreeable. You are to take the first opportunity of presenting both the letter and the present with all the marks of deference and respect necessary on such an occasion, but with as much oeconomy and

as little parade as possible ; in consequence the person or persons to be employed herein must be left to your discretion.

42. The Nabob's consenting to your attack of Chandernagore was a very happy circumstance, and as the French we make no doubt will make some efforts to retrieve their affairs in Bengal, you will make the best use of it to prevent any future connections between them.

43. The entire demolition of the fortifications at Chandernagore we hope has been long since effected agreeable to what Colonel Clive writes us in his letter of the 16th of April ; if not, it must be done without loss of time, that the French may not ever have the advantage again of a place of that force in case of their return to Bengal.

44. And here it is proper to inform you that we have very lately received certain intelligence that part of the great armament you have already been informed sailed from Port L'Orient for the East Indies the last spring is put into Rio Janeiro on the coast of Brazil, to refresh and recover the sick people, which were very many. The ships which are put in at this place are seven large ones with a great number of men on board, although they had lost many in their passage ; they were left there the end of August and proposed to proceed on their voyage the month following.

45. All our settlements have been so well apprized of this armament, to which adding the probability of Commodore Stevens getting to India before it, we are in great hopes this formidable effort will in a great measure be frustrated. With respect to Fort William we shall depend upon your having put it into the best posture of defence and that you will take all possible care for its security.

46. We cannot approve of your so generally interdicting the exercise of the Roman Catholick religion within the whole bounds, as such a step may be attended with many inconveniency, but if any priest is troublesome or suspected of doing any thing prejudicial to our affairs, we would have such an one immediately dismissed and not permitted to reside any where within the bounds. As to Fort William itself it will be a prudent measure so long as the French war subsists not to suffer any persons professing the Roman Catholick religion, priests or others, to reside therein, and this you are strictly to observe.

47. You mention that you should consider of some regulations with respect to admitting the residence of the Armenians and black merchants within our bounds. We hope you have taken no steps to discourage the inhabitants in general, and as to the Armenians we apprehend no bad consequences from their residence, on the contrary many advantages flow from it, which we would have you encourage as much as possible.

48. It appears upon your consultations of the 20th of January last that Omichund's conduct had been such as to give room to suspect he had been directly or indirectly concerned in involving the settlement in the late troubles, and you therefore agree to attach his estate and effects till some determination could be come to. It is true the former part of his conduct was suspicious, but not so far as appears to us in a degree to warrant the sequestration of his estates and effects, and his behaviour since seems to have been with a sincere intention to serve the Company. As we do not find any proceedings in this

affair since the 20th January, we must suppose you have dropt the further prosecution of it, but if it has been resumed we hope you have gone no further than the strictest justice will warrant.

49. We observe by Colonel Clive's letter of the 16th of April last that the Nabob had started a difficulty as to driving the French out of the province on account of the injury it would be to the Mogul's revenues, upon which the Select Committee agreed that if the French subordinates were delivered up to us, the English Company would annually make good to the *Circar* the loss of customs on the French trade so long as they should be kept out of the country, and that to obviate another difficulty started about the debts owing by the French to his subjects, an offer was made of half of what might be found at their subordinates. The last measure we can have no objection to, but the other we apprehend will make us liable to unlimited demands. We hope this measure has been and will be well considered and adjusted in the most advantageous and unexceptionable manner, as well as consistent with the great object of keeping the French out of the province.

50. Upon the Select Committee's minutes under date of the 12th of March, we find a letter there taken notice of from Mr. Watts, that Omichund had mentioned to the Governour, Colonel Clive and himself, that Roy Runget^s acting as *vackeel* in getting the three lack of rupees (towards indemnifying the Company) expected the same allowance of ten per cent as they used to get on payment of all money to the Nabob, which if he remembers right was assented to; however lest he should be mistaken he requested immediate directions. This being the last minute in the book, the resolution thereupon does not appear, but we have taken notice of it on purpose to acquaint you that if this claim has been complied with in its full extent, it is a further mark of your lavishing the Company's money in a very extraordinary degree.

51. You have been already directed to signify the high sense we as a Court of Directors entertain of the services of Vice-Admiral Watson and Vice-Admiral Pocock. We have now the pleasure of informing you, that at a General Court of the Proprietors of the East India Company held on the 21st of December last, it was unanimously "Resolved that the thanks of this General Court be given to Vice-Admiral Watson and to Vice-Admiral Pocock for their eminent and signal services to this Company."

52. If those gentlemen or either of them should be in Bengal or elsewhere in India where they can be writ to, you are to inform them of the said resolution, and at the same time let them know how much pleasure it gives us to transmit so agreeable a testimony of their great merit.

53. It is with equal pleasure we also transmit another unanimous resolution of the same Court with respect to the services of Lieutenant Colonel Clive which is to be immediately communicated to him viz.,

"RESOLVED that the thanks of this General Court be given to Lieutenant Colonel Robert Clive for his eminent and signal services to this Company."

Fifthly, of fortifications, buildings and revenues

54. We were so particular in our directions with respect to rendering Fort William defensible in our letter of the 4th of May last which went out with

our Engineer Mr. Mace, that we have nothing further to add thereto, than only by way of hint to recommend to your and Mr. Mace's consideration whether the works now subsisting, by being strengthened and improved as much as their nature and situation will admit of, may not render them sufficiently defensible and tenable without erecting a new fort or citadel, the expence of which will be immense and no benefit result from it probably during this French war; should you and Mr. Mace be of this opinion, the expence of a new fort will be saved, and no fresh cause for alarm be given the Moor's Government, which notwithstanding the late treaty it might occasion.

55. As we entirely agree with you in opinion that there is no utility in having garrisons at the subordinate settlements and which our late misfortunes have fully evinced, you are therefore to suffer no buildings to be erected or repaired, but such as are really necessary for the residence of the few servants we purpose to have at them, and mercantile purposes only, that the heavy expences we have hitherto laboured under for buildings and repairs may be reduced within the most moderate bounds.

56. In the several buildings it may be necessary to erect for the general purposes of the settlement you are to be as frugal as possible. The Council room and three or four adjoining ones are to be handsome though not expensive, all other apartments and buildings are to have as little bestowed upon them as may be consistent with the uses they are intended for.

57. You must take care that the apartments for our junior servants are not upon the ground floor and in damp situations, as has been generally the case and fatal to many of them; let them be plain but convenient and as contiguous to the general scene of business and the respective places of their employs as may be.

58. We are told that the buildings formerly made use of as a theatre, may with a little expence be converted into a church or public place of worship; as it was built by the voluntary contribution of the inhabitants at Calcutta, we think there can be no difficulty in getting it freely applied to the before-mentioned purpose, especially when we authorize you to fit it up decently at the Company's expence as we hereby do.

59. If you should not be fully in possession again of Bulramgurry^e, we would have a lookout house at least preserved and a flag hoisted there as usual lest the French should take possession of it, and when affairs are settled in Bengal it must then become an object of your most serious consideration as a place that will contribute much to the enlargement of the investment.

60. Chittagong has been represented to us to be so conveniently situated for trade, and might be advantageous to the Company in so many other respects that were our affairs in general in a more favourable situation than at present, we should be tempted to order an immediate settlement there. At present we would confine our views to getting leave for hoisting a flag by way of preserving a right thereto, so as to preclude the French or any other European powers from any pretensions to that place, and we direct you will make the necessary applications for an exclusive liberty if possible of hoisting a [flag] accordingly, at least that we have the liberty of settling etc., flag there, notwithstanding any privileges the Nabob may grant to other nations, and you are to give us your thoughts upon the advantages of trade, situation and

otherways, of such a settlement, the charges of carrying it into execution, together with whatever else occurs to you material for our information, that if it shall appear an object worthy of our attention we may send you the necessary orders thereupon.

61. Had your fortifications and works been ever so strong and formidable, what could they have availed without having a sufficient stock of gunpowder and your artillery and military stores in proper order? How much all this was neglected in the late capture of the place has appeared beyond all contradiction; in order as much as possible to prevent such negligence in future we positively direct that you do annually make a return by the first ships of your stock of powder, and of all sorts of ammunition and military stores upon hand, together with the condition of the same, and you are further directed to cause frequent surveys to be made thereof, and cause the gunpowder to be turned as often as necessary that you may be satisfied they are at all times in a condition for service, copies of which surveys must likewise be transmitted for our information.

*Sixthly and seventhly, of covenant and military servants
and their accounts*

62. In our last letter you were informed of the names of the thirteen writers we had appointed for the Bengal establishment; James Barton, the first upon the list, is with his father Captain Barton who are on their way overland as mentioned in that letter, five took their passage on the *Hardwicke*, two went by the Fort St. George ships and the remainder proceed on these ships.

63. We now according to annual method send you a list of free merchants, seafaring people and others who have our leave for residing in the East Indies under the Company's protection.

64. We are sensible the late calamity has reduced many persons to extreme poverty, in particular we have been informed that the widow and three children of our late Chaplain, Mr. Mapletoft, are in great distress. We therefore recommend the case of this family to your consideration, as likewise any other real and great objects of charity arising from the same cause, and give them such relief as may be necessary for their support, in doing which you are to be as sparing as the nature of the several cases will admit, constantly bearing in mind the present circumstances of the Company which will not allow of any expence that can be possibly avoided. You are to transmit to us annually a full account of your proceedings herein with your reasons for giving or continuing any charities, that we may be satisfied whether they are bestowed upon proper objects and may send our orders accordingly.

65. Mrs. Elizabeth Dod having been permitted to send nineteen hundred and eighty two ounces of foreign silver by the *Grantham* for the use of her son John Dod, writer at your settlement, who being dead, she has desired it may be secured and disposed of either by you or our servants at Fort St. George. If the said silver should be in Bengal you are to receive the same accordingly into the Company's cash and give a set of certificates for the amount thereof payable to her as administratrix to the deceased.

66. Mr. Edward Wharton having also been permitted to send seven

hundred and forty seven ounces of foreign silver by the *Walpole* to Nathan Drake, late a writer at your settlement, also since deceased, has made the like request. If this also shall be in Bengal you are to receive the same into our cash and give a sett certificates for the amount payable to Mr. Edward Wharton as administrator to the said Nathan Drake.

67. In the 54th paragraph of our letter by the *Hardwicke* we recommended Messrs. Cooke, Ellis and Cartier as proper objects of the Company's favour; we think proper to repeat it again in this place that you may be assured we shall be well pleased to find they are favoured in such manner as may be convenient.

68. If the situation of the Company's affairs should be such as to have detained Colonel Clive in Bengal until the receipt of this letter, it is our pleasure and orders, notwithstanding any former directions, that he continue to be the Commander in Chief of all our forces, that he be always of Council in which his rank is to be next to the presiding President for the time being and that he do preside at, and be the chief member of, the Select Committee. These directions are to be in force so long as Colonel Clive's stay in Bengal shall be found necessary for the good of the Company.

69. As all the ships this season for your side of India are so fully taken up in carrying a battalion of His Majesty's troops to Fort St. George, we have no other way of fixing the military establishment at your Presidency than by draughts from our own forces on the Fort St. George establishment, and indeed this seems to be very practicable as upon the arrival of that battalion we flatter ourselves there will be a sufficient strength upon the coast of Choromandel.

70. The garrison at Fort William we would have consisted of five hundred Europeans at least, officers included; we have accordingly directed the President and Council of Fort St. George to draught off such a number of the troops on that establishment as will make up and compleat the said number of five hundred effective Europeans at least, which are from thenceforward to be fixed on the Bengal establishment. Those already in Bengal [we] suppose will make part of that number, the rest we have given directions to be sent as soon after the arrival of His Majesty's troops as possible.

71. We have directed the President and Council of Fort St. George to consider also whether it may not be necessary to supply you with a body of good seapoys, and if it is, to send a proper number accordingly as far as you shall inform them may be wanted and they can spare or assist you with. You must therefore take care to apply to the said President and Council for as many as you shall judge necessary for our service in Bengal; this is on a supposition that you cannot get as good people in Bengal.

72. As we must suppose the military regulations which we sent you under date of the 17th June 1748 are lost in the late calamity, you will find copies thereof among the several other copies of papers now transmitted to you; to them therefore we refer you and direct that you conform as near thereto in the forming your present establishment as circumstances will admit of.

73. We have had great reason to complain of our servants at Fort St. George for carrying that allowance to the troops when they are in the field

called *batta* to an extravagant degree of profusion, and have given them express directions to reduce and settle it upon the most reasonable footing: we apprehend some allowance of this kind is introduced among the troops in Bengal, but to what extent we are not at present informed. However, it is necessary you should be apprized that we expect and direct, if such allowance has been introduced, you do regulate and reduce it in the best manner and as low as possible, in doing which you are to make an allowance for the great difference in the price of provisions at Fort St. George and with you, so that way [what?] may be deemed an equitable allowance there would be extravagant in Bengal where all the necessaries of life are so much cheaper, and we further direct that *batta* be never allowed but when the troops are in the field in actual service, and that no allowance thereof be made to any officer or officers or any other person or persons whatsoever in a double capacity.

74. We observe by your consultation of the 26th of January you agreed that a militia should be formed and established under the command of Major Kilpatrick with proper rules and regulations; this resolution meets with our entire approbation and we hope has been effectually carried into execution: if not, no time must be lost as the safety of the settlement may greatly depend upon so useful a measure.

75. For the reason already given, we cannot send you any military recruits this season, but we have appointed Thomas Davis, Solomon Parisod, George Buck and John Bath[oe] to be cadets in the Company's forces upon the Bengal establishment, who are to be preferred if they behave well in the order they are named. Two first went on the *Hardwicke*, as you have been already advised, the other two go in the *Warren*.

76. Captain Thomas Fenwick who had your permission to come to England on furlow for the re-establishing his health after a dangerous fit of illness, now returns to his duty and station as captain of a company upon the Bengal establishment, and you are to observe his absence is not to be prejudice to his rank.

77. We have appointed Mr. Robert Millagan to be a lieutenant of the first company on the Bengal establishment wherein a vacancy shall happen upon or after his arrival, and a commission is to be granted him thereupon accordingly. In the mean time, he is to have and receive, until such vacancy shall happen, the pay usually allowed to a lieutenant, and he is to do duty as a supernumerary lieutenant whenever and wherever it may be necessary.

78. As the very being of our settlements in Bengal will greatly depend upon our forces being at all times under the command of a capable and good officer, which it is with great pleasure we observe is the present case with respect to Major Kilpatrick and who, we hope, will long fill that station, yet in case of a vacancy of the post of Major of our garrison by his death or any other event, it is our pleasure that Paul Philip Polier De Bottens Esqre our Major at Fort St. George who was originally on the Bengal establishment have his option of succeeding to such vacant Majorship at Fort William, but if Major Polier rather chuses to stay at Fort St. George, then it is our pleasure and directions that Captain John Calliaud^r, at present likewise on the Fort St. George establishment, do remove from thence and succeed to such vacant Majorship on your establishment. In case therefore of a vacancy you are to

send immediate notice thereof to Fort St. George that one or other of those gentlemen may set out to take the command of our forces in Bengal without loss of time.

79. Our late misfortunes in Bengal have fully evinced, by the incapacity of the late Commandant Minchin, what little regard ought to be paid to seniority in the military line, on so important an occasion as the command of our forces for ever so short a time. Therefore, in case of a vacancy by the death or any other event of Major Kilpatrick, you are to appoint the most capable and unexceptionable officer to fill that important post provisionally until Major Polier or Captain Calliaud arrives to succeed agreeable to what is beforementioned.

80. Should neither of those gentlemen succeed, then such capable and unexceptionable officer must continue to fill that post until we signify our further pleasure to you, and this you are to look upon as a standing rule whenever there is a vacancy.

81. Major Polier, by our express orders to the President and Council at Fort St. George, was not to have a constant seat at the Council Board, but to be always called thereto when military affairs are under consideration, or when he had any thing to propose in the military way, at which times he was to have a vote and take his seat therein next below the second. This must be observed as a rule also in Bengal with respect to Major Polier and all future Majors. As Major Kilpatrick by our appointment is standing third in Council this rule is not to affect him.

82. It is with concern we are obliged in this place to take notice of a very extraordinary letter addressed to us by Major Kilpatrick under date of the 15th August 1756, which reflects on us for a partial conduct in regard to him which we certainly have given no occasion for. The nomination of a Major at our three Presidencies is what we always have and shall continue to reserve to ourselves. Had seniority prevailed, we think Captain Campbell had pretension to succeed at the time of the appointment of Major Heron and the nomination of Captain Kilpatrick who thereby took rank of Captain Campbell, occasioned the return of the latter, whose complaints were strongly represented to us by persons of the highest rank here, and would perhaps have been in some degree relieved, had not our high opinion of Colonel Lawrence persuaded us that there were some sufficient reasons which induced him to prefer Major Kilpatrick, which last, had he had the patience to have waited the arrival of our letter to you of the 11th of February 1756, would have found his various complaints quite groundless; with respect to his complaints about allowances mentioned in another letter of the 15 of January following, he is certainly mistaken or misinformed, as it was always our intention that he should have the same appointment with all other Majors at our other Presidencies, nor do we know of any other instance of any thing more paid to any former Major than the sum of two hundred and fifty pounds a year except Colonel Scott, who, contrary to our knowledge and first intention, did receive an additional pay of fifteen shillings a day, which we signified our disapprobation of in the strongest terms and ordered to be discontinued in future to any succeeding Majors, as well as of the most unwarrantable liberty you took in continuing the like allowance to Captain Minchin who succeeded as Commandant.

83. Major Kilpatrick may be assured we retain a very just sense of his services, and it hath been far from our intention to show the least slight to him, but do not find it in our power to distinguish him by a larger allowance than those made to Major Sir James Foulis and Major Polier.

84. The safety of the place and the proper management of the garrison depend so much upon the soldiers being constantly under the eye of their officers that we would have you, as soon as you conveniently can, cause barracks to be erected for them in such place or places as may best answer the purpose. Your Engineer must be accordingly consulted and employed on this occasion.

85. As we take it for granted you have re-established the hospital, you are strictly to observe the orders we gave for the better regulation thereof in our General Letter of the 8th of January 1752 [*sic*] and in particular that part wherein one of the Council is directed, in turn once a week or oftener if necessary, do visit the hospital, and report to the Board whether the surgeons are regular in their attendance, and give all the relief in their power to the sick, that they are kept clean and have the proper provisions. We know this has not been observed as it ought to have been; that we may know therefore you do your duty regularly in this respect, we insist upon your entering upon your diary every such visitation together with such proceedings as may result therefrom.

86. As the allowing of sick quarters for the military leaves a dangerous opening for faggots, you are on no account to admit of such a practice, and indeed if the hospital is properly managed there will be no pretence for it.

87. Lieutenant Nathaniel Jacobs, who had served the Company several years in the military in Bengal and whose pay, though absent, has for some particular reasons been continued, informed us that the same was stopt by you on the 1st of September 1756. We have agreed to pay him here in future, therefore no further payment on that account is to be made in Bengal. We have paid him the arrears from the said 1st September, but if any thing has been paid by you from that time to his attorneys, you are to advise us of the same that we may recover it again, he having given security for that purpose.

88. Upon the application of Dr. Baillie, the father of Captain Hugh Baillie at present in the seafaring way at your Presidency, representing the sufferings and late behaviour of his said son and who has acted as a volunteer in the Company's service since the retaking as well as during the attack of Fort William, we have agreed to consideration thereof to give him his option of residing in India under the protection of the Company by free merchant's indentures, or to be provided for in our service in the seafaring way if you can find an employment for him in that manner. You are to inform us which he makes his choice, and if it is the latter, we recommend it to you to fix him in such station as may render his services useful to the Company and at the same time be satisfactory to himself.

89. Mr. Anselm Beaumont, who hath resided for several years past at our settlements of Fort William, is represented to us as having carried on a considerable trade there with great honour, and that his behaviour in the course thereof hath been such as tended to the advantage of the Company by

the example it afforded to others. We being inclined to listen to the representations of his friends in regard to the great losses he hath sustained in the late general calamity which hath befallen that settlement, as well in regard to the loss of [his] own effects as of the consignments and effects entrusted to him by his friends, in order to excite his industry and give him a better opportunity of retrieving his shattered fortune, we do direct that he be entertained in our service as a factor, and do take rank next after Mr. George Gray Junr.

90. Among the many objects of our regard and compassion whose fortunes have been reduced from opulent to distressed circumstances, none are entitled to a greater share of it than our late President Mr. Drake. Uninformed as we still continue in regard to the secret springs and source of our late misfortunes at Bengal, we have been very tender in charging particular misconducts on particular persons. But by how much the more we had to expect from the conduct of gentlemen we thought fit to preside and have a principal concern in the conduct of our affairs, by so much the greater was our disappointment that some measure was not thought of and carried into execution for preventing that ruin which befell us and our servants, and which we can but think might have hindered its coming to the extremity we have experienced.

91. The superior rank and situation of Mr. Drake hath been so far his greater misfortune, as having exposed him more particularly to obloquy abroad and the resentment of gentlemen at home, and diverted the course of that favour which hath been extended to others in inferior stations.

92. We being desirous of lessening as much as we can consistently the weight of his misfortunes, by permitting him to continue in India, if it is agreeable to him, to adjust his private affairs and regulate his transactions in trade, for the better enabling him so to do, we direct that he be continued in our service and to remain as and at the head of the Senior Merchants and with their appointments without interfering in the Company's affairs.

General Rules, Instructions and Orders, which from their connections are necessary to be kept together, although consisting of various branches, and and therefore ranged under this separate head

93. The settlement of Calcutta has long wanted a reform in almost every branch, and disobedience to our orders, the practice for some years past. This, together with gross omissions and a total inattention to business, had thrown our affairs into great confusion, and that you may be convinced we are not too severe in our assertions, we shall here instance a few facts and many others will follow in the course of these remarks. For these eight years no records of Quarter Sessions⁸ have been transmitted us, nor the remarkable tryal of Mr. MacGwire for the mangling Mr. Plaisted. Had we in this case been publicly called upon, such an omission would have brought cruel reflection upon the Company. All presentments by Grand Juries⁹ have by this means been sunk, and matters possibly of great importance hid from us. The registers of appeals have not been much better conducted and those, with the Mayor's Court¹⁰ registers, often omitted. To add more is unnecessary.

94. We have now with some trouble framed such a system for your better government as must in our opinion produce considerable and lasting advantages to us and all our subjects at Calcutta, and in a few years render it a greater and flourishing colony, provided these our orders are carried into execution with that zeal, application and fidelity which you owe to your employers. And we here make this positive declaration to all our servants from the highest to the lowest, that whoever dares to break through, deviate from, or neglects the several rules here laid down, shall most assuredly be dismissed our service, excepting however such parts as you our Governour and Council may deem impracticable or detrimental, and in these cases you are to assign us your reasons, full and explicit.

95. It appears to us the clearest method to range our regulations under distinct heads, and therefore we will begin with that most extensive branch the Zemindary. This post with great part of its power we judge fit to abolish or rather separate, and in its stead we substitute an office, the head of which must be called Collector of Rents and Revenues under whose management are to be the following articles:

Ground rent	<i>Damar</i> and oakum farm
Duty on sale of houses	Sallamy on new sloops and boats
Do sale of sloops and boats	Commission on mortgage bonds
Do sale of slaves	Duty collected on the out towns
Pettahs	Duty on hurtliened oxen
Ground overplus	Bang shops farm
Glass makers' farm	Red lead do
Vermillion do	Salt do
Fire work do	The <i>arrack</i> farm.
Tobacco shops do	

The thirty eight villages ceded to us by the Nabob or whatever may be those acquisitions.

96. These are all the powers of the Zemindary that are to exist under the Collector. The *damar* and oakum farm seems to be a heavy tax upon the trader. If we are right in this conjecture strike it off the list, and we also direct the following alterations:

First: All farms in future are to be put up to public sale by our Governour and Council and not by the Collector.

Secondly: Regular books are to be kept of the revenues etc. by the Collector and transmitted us annually. Monthly accounts are to be delivered the Board and the ballances punctually paid into the treasury.

Third: The Zemindar heretofore determined all differences and disputes betwixt the casts and fined at his pleasure, and such fines composed the *attlack*. We now order that the aggrieved in all cases apply by petition for redress to the Governour. He in the margin of each petition must name arbitrators and underwrite it to our Collector to have the same carried into execution, and reported back to him. The Collector then, in obedience to this order, is to summon the arbitrators, direct a speedy decision, and when they return their opinion the Collector is to deliver it to the Governour who confirms it with such fine as he shall judge proper, and this decree is to be placed

in the Collector's registry; but the fine must in future be paid to the party injured, and no part is to be brought to our credit. If the fine should at any time exceed two hundred rupees and the mulcted think themselves aggrieved, they are to appeal to our President and Council.

Fourth: In the measurement of ground, the directive part is to dwell with the Collector. He receives all applications to build, plan or enclose, and must issue his orders to the Surveyor of the Works (whose appointment and duty will be hereafter explained) for measuring AB so many square yards of ground, describing the spot. The Surveyor must return the Collector his report in writing, who is then to register the same, when it becomes the [sic] of the annual collections of the revenues.

97. We are next to consider those powers of the Zemindary that remain, and notice to you such parts as we mean to abolish for the ease of the poor and general good of Calcutta.

98. The civil authority for determining all causes of property between the natives above twenty rupees are to be vested in five persons. The members you are to name from our servants below Council, one of which is to preside as judge for a year only, and then another is to be elected. These several appointments are to be made by our President and Council, who are to remove them when the service requires it, and fill up all vacancies as may offer by this means, deaths or other [ways]. Rules of practice and tables of fees you are to settle for them and we should think it would be best, they nearly correspond with the methods practised by our Mayor's Court, for we have no very favourable ideas of *etlack*, *moriannis* etc., at least we wish to see them mitigated. If lenity does not increase the evil, the same we say of fines. However, these matters are left entirely to your discretion; lesser articles it's needless to particularize, as we shall close this head with observing that all civil cases heretofore in the jurisdiction of the Court of *Cutcherry* are now to dwell with these persons. In all matters where the dispute exceeds one hundred rupees, the parties, if they esteem themselves aggrieved, may appeal by petition to our President and Council. The registers are to be faithfully and exactly kept up and transmitted us annually.

99. In criminal cases where the Indians are delinquents, the following methods we judge will answer every end of the Zemindary. Let the cognizance of all crimes dwell with our justices of peace, three of which are to sit thrice a week, and take their rotation, (our President excepted), and that justice may at no time stop, appoint one of them the judge for a month, this also in a rotation, who may daily determine all slight offences, and fine small sums, but in all matters of consequence that may offer in such days as the justices do not sit, he is directly to summon a quorum to decide them, and should the parties punished or fined by the acting judge esteem himself injured, he may appeal to the quorum for redress. But as the laws of England do not authorize to determine offences and inflict such punishments as are warranted by our *phirmaind* or rather tolerated by the Mogul Government, you are in this capacity to stile them zemindars, and your acting justice, the monthly zemindar. You must appoint one of our servants clerk to the zemindars, a registry must be faithfully kept up, their proceedings signed, and on every rotation lists of fines with their reasons for levying them laid before the Board for your approval.

100. Another power that will partly fall under these justices is that of *Catwall*. The Major or Commanding Officer (as will be shewn under the military head) is to order parties of soldiers to patrol the night through, who are to seize all disturbers of the peace, vagrants or criminals. These are to be confined until the morning, and then they are to be delivered to the sitting justice, who, if they are Indians, will try them as zemindar, and if Europeans, as one of His Majesty's Justices. For you will observe that this regulation for the quorum and monthly judge is meant by us to extend their jurisdiction to both; and thus connected, there will be less confusion, than if other justices were to hold a distinct branch. We need not point out that their proceedings in different capacity should be kept separate—the same clerk serving both.

101. The following are what we order to be abolished, as we never mean to derive advantages from methods that may burthen or distress the inhabitants, and they are grievances that appear to us in that light, and you are to bear this general remark in mind that wheresoever the inhabitants continue injured, or your trade clogged and prejudiced, as it's our intention to redress the whole, you are to point out the same for our examination and future directions, viz.,

Chest makers farm	Tax on marriages
Caulkers farm	Do on fishing boats
Vending tea cattys and old iron do	Do on scaling weights and measures
Pattamar farm	Do on tom toms
Duty on old timber and plank	Licence for treats.

102. The undermentioned farms can no longer subsist because the collection of all duties relative to food, raiment or trade will fall under the head of customs, viz.,

The Gunge buzar	Sambuzar and new buzar
Soota Nuty market	John buzar and
The Great buzar	Barthotta buzar
Baagbuzar etc., seven farms	Ram buzar
Govindpore market etc., three farms	Dee Calcutta and buzar
Dee Calcutta market	Calcutta ferry boats

103. And thus having distinguished where the remaining powers of the Zemindary exist, we are next to consider the important articles of customs.

104. We are fully persuaded the grossest abuses have for a long time been committed, and we fear connived at, and that we have been annually defrauded of the greatest part of our duties. Our sentiments with some regulations were transmitted you in 1756, but as we intend now to make a thorough change in this branch by adopting a plan which we please ourselves must operate to our benefit and the advantage of the fair trader, those alterations are to be disregarded, and you are to adhere strictly to the orders we shall now lay down.

105. Those farms where duties were collected on food, raiment necessities and merchandize being now set aside, customs are to be collected on every article that comes into or goes out of Calcutta. To enumerate such is unnecessary, perhaps impracticable. The general customs at Madras is five per cent; at Bombay four three quarters on imports and exports, and at Calcutta, in consideration of your present distresses, we order only four per

cent to be levied. Your own discretion will guide you to charge more or less on particular commodities. On vegetables, oranges, limes, poultry etc., necessities for the inhabitants in Madrass two and half per cent is charged, and at Bombay two per cent only. But then on articles whose exports or imports may affect the settlement higher duties are levied. For instance all kinds of grain imported pays three per cent, exported six per cent; salt brought in three and half per cent, carried out twenty per cent; coconuts, copra, onions, timber, chinam, three and half, exported nine; horses and mules six and opium imported nine per cent. In like manner you are to regulate the duties on particular articles as circumstances at Calcutta may direct. Rice, we think, may be fixed at four or three per cent on import and less in time of scarcity. But the exports, it's our opinion, should never be under seven or eight per cent, for as this is a large and often a very profitable trade, high duties will be the securest method to keep your settlement in a state of plenty.

106. The methods our Custom Master must pursue, are those practised at Bombay or Madrass. The former seems by much the clearest, and in this packet are the custom books for one year, of each Presidency, where you'll observe the duties are daily entered, each entry containing in one column line, the proprietor, from whence, and imported or exported to, the ship or vessel's name, the several species of goods, their weight or measure, the rates and amount customs; monthly accounts are to be laid before the Board, the hallances punctually paid into our treasury and the Annual Books transmitted us.

107. As your bounds are extensive and the consulage abolished, there will be a necessity of having two custom houses and two Custom Masters. The principal custom house must be by the river side. We find there is a house of ours very suitable for this purpose which if not sufficiently commodious must be made so, as also large and convenient landing places. All sea imports and exports are to be collected here and the head of the office is to be called Sea Custom Master. All goods, merchandize and bullion imported at Calcutta are to be landed here and no where else. Whoever transgresses must be dismissed our service—if Europeans, sent to England, and the goods forfeited—one half to our use, the other moiety to the informer. The same penalty shall fall on those who presume to land any one article without permission first obtained. The party must apply to the Custom Master signifying the particulars and declaring himself accountable for their duties.

108. The other custom house should be erected near the extremes of your bounds, and most contiguous to the great thoroughfare from the continent. Here duties are to be levied on all goods introduced to Calcutta or sent out to the continent, observing however that no goods are to pay us double customs unless the property is changed. At every entrance to the town our Custom Master should have small guardhouses or *chowkeys*, all articles whatever to be brought to this custom house and no where else, and the offenders to suffer in such cases the penalties already mentioned. The person who presides in this branch you are to call Land Custom Master and the books are to be kept and transmitted in the same manner as directed with respect to the Sea Custom Master.

109. As we cannot be too cautious in the prosecution of smuggling, the Sea Custom Master may, if you think it expedient, have guard boats assigned

him from the marine to patrol the river nightly, and as you shall, under the military regulations, order European guards to go their rounds from ten at night to five in the morning throughout your boundaries, we shall hope these iniquitous practices will be cut off, and do you promise a tempting share of all seizures to these officers and their people.

110. Let all ship's passes, when signed and sealed, be delivered to the Custom Master and by him to the commander, a method that will prevent any persons departing before our customs are paid.

111. So soon as you have agreed and settled our duties to be collected on all articles, let them, together with our orders and penalties annexed, be transcribed in large legible letters in the several languages and signed by our Governour. Let such be framed and hung up in the most conspicuous places at our custom house, that every one may know the duties to be paid and the penalties he may suffer.

112. As the carrying into execution this great and important plan will require steadiness and strict application, we shall place the principal part with Mr. Becher depending upon his integrity and the exertion of his abilities in every shape without favour or partiality. He may rely upon our supporting him in his duty, and we hope he will merit this mark of our confidence. He is accordingly appointed our Sea Custom Master. What regard appointments relative to this branch will be found in the following part of this letter.

113. Lastly, it's our express orders that duties are collected on all goods brought into town under your *dusticks* agreeable to the general rates you may settle, as also on all goods the Moguls, Armenians etc., foreigners shall bring in for exportation on your freight ships or otherwise, for it's our meaning that none shall be exempt from paying our full duties on every article brought into or carried out of the settlement.

114. Surveyor of the Works is an officer we now appoint to have cognizance of the following matters: with the Collector he will be so far connected as to be under his orders in the measurement of ground for building or planting as already set forth; and no measurement hut through him shall be allowed. It must be his province to take care no incroachments are made on the public roads, no structures erected that in the opinion of our Engineer will obstruct the guns of your fortifications, or be a dangerous shelter to an enemy, for no consideration must induce you to suffer such evils again.

115. All publick buildings, repairs, enclosures etc., must be under his immediate direction, the orders are to be issued to him from your Board, he is to indent for all materials to the *Buxey*, who is to deliver you his monthly accounts, such accounts as to value and quantities being first approved and undersigned by the Surveyor, and where he dissents his reasons are to be assigned. The payments of all workmen is still to dwell with the *Buxey*, but they are first to be mustered by the Surveyor and these muster rolls signed must be delivered to the Board as vouchers to the *Buxey's* accounts or you are not to pass them. The person whom we deem in all respects most equal to this trust is Mr. Bartholomew Plaisted. He is accordingly entertained Surveyor of your works and takes passage on one of these ships.

116. Our late determination in regard to the impropriety of permitting Mr. Plaisted to return to Bengal, and our appointment of him so soon after

to the post of Surveyor of the Works upon our present plan of regulations, may seem to require some little explanation of our motives thereto.

117. Though he was absent from, yet being unhappily greatly involved with many others sufferers in the general calamity of that settlement, our compassion hath in great degree effaced our resentment in regard to his late haughty behaviour which had occasioned it. His character in point of integrity being unimpeached, we entertain hopes of a very differing behaviour in other respects in future. Should we be disappointed there and he behave in the execution of his office with insolence or indecency, you are to suspend him from our service. But during his good behaviour therein, we do direct that he be paid the annual salary of eighteen hundred current rupees in full of all perquisites, emoluments and allowances whatever. But remember that you are able to justify yourselves in all instances where severities are exercised towards him or others, and the remarkable cruel treatment of Capt. Graham is here mentioned to show you that we will resent such arbitrary measures.

118. The general books for these many years have been swelled to an enormous size by the multiplicity of useless heads. This together with the liberties you have taken of creating innumerable entries for the private convenience of individuals have rendered them intricate and confused. We have now made many alterations and amendments too long to be inserted here. Therefore they are under No. in this packet and signed by our Auditor, and we positively direct you to keep strictly up to those rules. When these books are curtailed and modelled in the manner now prescribed, no new heads are to be opened but with the permission of our President. And as your books have been generally basely copied, entries frequently erased, postings omitted, with other unpardonable irregularities, the person found culpable in any of these instances together with him who signs as examiner shall assuredly feel our resentment.

119. The Secretary's office has, in like manner, been very badly managed, your consultations for these several years past wrote in such a vile manner as not to be legible; in many places, indexes often omitted, the registers as already noted either not punctually kept up or transmitted us. In short the business in every branch at your settlement has been conducted in such a loose and negligent manner as to reflect shame on those in trust with our affairs. You our Governour and Council must set the example of order, method and application; the junior servants should be taught obedience and kept strictly to their duty, the negligent admonished, and where admonition fails, suspend them the service until our pleasure is known. The Madrass method of indexing their consultations is so plain and intelligent that we direct you to put the same in practice, one of those for your guidance is enclosed in this packet.

120. The military establishment in general we do not mean to alter, but some regulations are necessary. The Europeans in garrison at Calcutta, we have already told you, are to consist of five hundred men. The Indian soldiery or seapoys be five companys of one hundred men each, but if more are found necessary we do not limit you; these to be under our Major equally with the Europeans. The principal officers of the Indian companies to be appointed by our President, the inferior by the Major, the whole subject to the controul and directions of our Governour and Council when they see cause

to interfere. As we have abolished pike men, *buxerries*, *Catwall* etc., these country soldiers are to serve the following purposes. The Collector, Custom Masters, *Buxey*, Warehouse Keepers and every other officer will require a certain number agreeable to the nature of their department; this is to be settled and the allotments fixed in Council without any further charge to us than their pay as soldiers; the whole are to be at the Major's call in all emergencies to defend the settlements; and in order that discipline may be kept up they are all to be changed monthly, but we must further observe that during the time these soldiers are at those offices, they must only obey the orders of those they are under, excepting as above observed in times of danger.

121. As we mean to have no Europeans soldiers in future at any of our subordinates, the guards that may be judged sufficient for the protection of our factories must also be draughted from these soldiers, and thus we have laid down rules that will ease us of a heavy expence, and the soldiers continued equally useful for your defence.

122. The *Catwall's* power being destroyed, our Major must in future appoint a European guard with an ensign to patrol constantly from ten at night to five in the morning. The extent of those bounds you are to direct, but be particularly careful that the river side, and all entrances to the town, be well inspected for reasons already given. Every offender is to be confined by the Major until the morning. Criminals and rioters are to be sent with the evidences to our sitting justice, but spies and smugglers are to be examined by our Governour and by him reported to the Board.

123. The mint is our next great object as we make no doubt but the grant has long since been ratified by the Nabob. We shall here lay down the necessary rules for conducting it with reputation and advantage.

124. This branch must be by contract, one month's public notice or more to be given, that you will receive proposals in writing and sealed for the coining of gold and silver, the lowest bidder to have the contract. Each party to put down the price of one hundred ounces of gold and silver of every specie that has or may be brought into Calcutta; this will clearly enable you to determine the preference. They are previously to be acquainted that the mint house and its repairs shall be at our expence, every other charge whatever on the contractors' account. As the coinage will be a great trust, we apprehend none but persons of large capitals or credit will offer themselves, for you must exact security in a sum equal to the amount you may judge will at any one time dwell in the mint. If two or more distinct families of opulence and character could be brought to join in their proposals, and should obtain the contract, it would be pleasing to us for many reasons. And for your better guidance we transmit you under No. what is allowed us for the several species coined in the mints of Bombay and Madrass. When the contractors are chose, and the prices of bullion fixed, you are then to enter upon the following regulations: a Mint Master must be appointed from our servants below Council, whose business will be to attend all receipts of bullion, and issues of rupees; no person is to send silver or gold to the mint but by application in writing to the Mint Master expressing species and quantities, who then must give his order to the contractors for receiving the same, and when such bullion is coined, a second order from the Mint Master must

be obtained for delivery of the rupees. These methods pursued will prevent our being defrauded of our duties.

125. The coinage you are to collect on all silver is two and half per cent upon the contractors' prices, which you are to appropriate in the following manner: one per cent bring to our credit, one per cent we indulge our Governour for the time being, and half per cent to the Mint Master as an encouragement to discharge this trust with fidelity and application; but if this coinage should raise the silver to a higher rate than at Bombay where the like duties are collected, you are then to lower the coinage until you give the trader equal to what he receives at our other Presidencies. Otherwise we cannot expect this mint to flourish. And in this case let our duty be one per cent and what may remain divide to our Governour and Mint Master in the above mentioned proportion.

126. The Mint Master is to enter in one book the persons, species, if silver or gold, they deliver to the mint, their amount, the coinage duty, and the several payments; in another book the receipt and delivery of all the Company's silver; monthly accounts of each are to be given into the Board, and the Mint Master in the same distinct manner is to transmit us those distinct accounts annually, which are to be signed by him. We settle no duties on the coinage of gold; it's left to you; and you have liberty to lessen them in such manner as may preserve the credit of your mint.

127. It will require great care and circumspection that the rupees are kept up to their standard, and it's not in our power to send you a capable Assay Master. However if our Governour will frequently, in a private manner, deliver a few rupees of different coinages to goldsmiths intirely independant of the contractors, their assays will be a better check upon the mint than any person we can procure here. Your Secretary must also annually take himself of four different coinages forty rupees, from each ten promiscuously. These are to be sealed up separately and transmitted us to be assayed at the Tower.

128. We will suffer no bullion imported at Calcutta to be coined or sold elsewhere. It shall be coined in our mint only, and those who do not chuse to do this may carry or return the same to the place it came from. But as this indulgence may be abused and under pretence of carrying it back, may convey it to our European or other neighbours, we order that all such bullion shall pay us a duty of half per cent when exported. And for the better knowing what gold and silver is brought into Calcutta, our Sea Custom Master must certify to our Mint Master the persons and quantities imported; and though bullion pays no customs, still let the same be entered on our custom books as regularly as merchandize.

129. Protections were originally intended to secure our property and meant by us to be granted our contractors, brokers and other useful persons connected with our affairs, and to none else. But for many years they have been given indiscriminately, too often we fear, to serve private purposes. To remedy this great evil in future, we order that every merchant craving our protection shall present a petition to the Governour and Council setting forth his motives or pretensions for such favour; if his request is granted, the reasons are to be assigned on your consultations. He is then to be registered

by the Secretary and list of those who have our protection with a proper description to be transmitted us annually.

130. There never surely was a time when the situation of the Company's affairs or that of their servants of all ranks as well as of those who are resident in India under the Company's protection so loudly called for a general reformation. If that regard (which we really look upon to be due) is to be paid to the truth of your representation of the distressed situation of our once flourishing settlement of Fort William, no attempts should be neglected for restoring it to something like its former lustre, and necessity must now enforce what prudence would always have suggested to those who attend to her dictates. Should the oeconomy we recommend to our servants of all ranks be as general as their situation requires, it must banish that false shame which is too often the attendant of those of weak minds, whose ill judged [...] in an inferiour situation in regard to rank or fortune put them upon following the examples of their superiours in either, in their vicious or luxurious indulgencies; but not to incur a censure formerly passed on us on a like occasion, though we are endeavouring rather to recommend and persuade where we are authorized to command, we will only add that we doubt not but our servants who are disposed to reflect will be very sensible before we close our letter that we are not acting on arbitrary or parsimonious principles, but on such which have equally for object the true and lasting interest of the Company and that of every individual servant acting under them, and that such of them who show the greatest zeal and readiness for conducting the affairs under their several departments in order to establish our general plan under the directions now given will be most entitled to our future favour and protection and will not fail to receive proofs of our attention thereto.

131. It was our intention to have struck off the various articles of allowances to our servants from the President to the writer and have fixed one general appointment to each rank for salary, diet money etc., but the shortness of the time before the dispatch of the ships not permitting us to digest the references and observations we must of course have made on those of our other Presidencies, we have determined to let the several allowances remain on the foot they have for some time subsisted from the gentlemen of Council to the factor. But as we are sensible that our junior servants of the rank of writers at Bengal are not, upon the whole, on so good a footing as elsewhere, we do hereby direct that the future appointment to a writer for salary, diet money and all allowances whatever be four hundred current rupees per annum, which mark of our favour and attention properly attended to must prevent their reflections on what we shall further order in regard to them as having any other object or foundation than their particular interest and happiness.

132. There is no part of the 80th paragraph of our General Letter of the 23rd January 1754 per *Denham, York and Norfolk* and *Anson* that does not merit your particular attention, one of which we are determined to enforce from a persuasion that the indigence of our junior servants, which may too often have been the effect of their vices and the imitation of their seniors, hath not a little contributed to increase that load of complaints which have been so strongly and repeatedly urged by the Nabob in regard to the abuse of *dusticks*, a practice we have ever disclaimed and are determined to show

in future the strongest marks of our resentment to such as shall be guilty of, and do most positively order and direct (and will admit of no representation for your postponing the execution of) that no writer whatsoever be permitted to keep either palankeen, horse or chaise during his writership, on pain of being immediately dismissed from our service.

133. You are also to observe that we will not in future admit of any expences being defrayed by the Company either under the head of cook rooms, garden or other expences whatever, and which we have lately observed on the face of our books, whether for the emolument of the Governour or any other person and which are not mentioned in the list of salaries, appointments etc., annually transmitted to us, as that is to be your present rule and standard for the whole to be paid each gentleman from the senior in Council to the junior factor, except in the particular instances herein after mentioned.

134. How desirous soever we may be to enforce our recommendations for oeconomy in general, we do not purpose to retrench what shall, upon mature consideration, appear to us reasonable for the decent support of each station in our service, or that of the four gentlemen in particular who are to preside alternately in establishing our settlement of Fort William on the plan now laid down, and do in consequence thereof direct and appoint that Messrs Watts, Manningham, Becher and Holwell be allowed during the time that each of them shall preside two thousand current rupees per month for a table and all other allowances whatsoever as President, exclusive of the standing appointment assigned to each in common with the juniors who are of Council. And as the rotation will afford such intervals from that charge as to admit of those gentlemen their being employed in other of the most important branches of our affairs, we do direct that Mr. Watts as senior have the option either of taking upon him either the office or employ of Import Warehouse Keeper or *Buxey*, that Mr. Manningham do continue in that of Export Warehouse Keeper, that Mr. Becher be appointed Chief or Sea Custom Master and Mr. Holwell do take upon him either of the employments of Import Warehouse Keeper or *Buxey* which Mr. Watts shall decline. In order to encourage those gentlemen to exert themselves in the most faithful and diligent discharge of their respective offices, as well as to enable them the better to support their rank in Council, we further appoint to each of them during their continuance in their several destined employments a salary of four thousand current rupees per annum, but on this express consideration that it is to be taken in full satisfaction for all emoluments whatever that have been formerly received or enjoyed by any who have held any of those posts either as perquisites, gratuities or any other denomination whatsoever. And it is our further pleasure and intention, if any one or more of the gentlemen shall, during their continuance in either of those offices, receive any other gratification than such their salary in any shape whatsoever, that they be, upon proof thereof, immediately suspended from the Company's service.

135. It is also our will and meaning that in case of the death, absence or removal of either of those gentlemen the salary hereby annexed to the office held by him be not allowed to such of Council whom you may appoint to succeed thereto, as we shall reserve to ourselves the confirmation of such your appointment as well as the consideration of the future salary we shall

think proper to annex thereto. And in regard to the vacant place of such gentlemen as of rotation do succeed to the Presidency, it is not to be filled up except by orders from this Court.

136. The conduct of Mr. Paul Richard Pearkes during the time of the attack on Fort William, the hardships he underwent in continuing to discharge his duty in the defence thereof until the Nabob became master of the place, entitles him to some particular mark of our regard, and do therefore direct that he be appointed Accountant with a gratuity annexed to that post of current rupees one thousand per annum.

137. Should Mr. William Mackett accept the Chiefship hereinafter appointed him, Mr. Peter Amyatt is to take upon him the post of Land Custom Master, but should Mr. Mackett decline the said Chiefship, Mr. Amyatt is hereby appointed thereto, and in that case Mr. Mackett is to be Land Custom Master. Whatever gentleman undertakes it, may be assured that a proper recompence shall attend his acquitting himself with zeal and integrity of the duty thereof. But before we fix the sum, shall desire to be informed by you when you can form a judgement of the trouble attending it and of what you may think an adequate allowance for the same. You will observe to do the same in regard to that branch of the Zemindary, which is to be conducted in future by an officer to be called Collector of the Revenues, which will be a post of considerable consequence when the Company is put into possession of the thirty eight districts or villages formerly granted to us under the Mogul's *phirmaund*, and lately confirmed and ceded to us by the treaty with the Nabob Sourajee Doulet, and which post we would have filled up by such gentleman of the Council as you shall judge most equal to the trust.

138. We approve of your continuing the gratuities annexed to the several employments of Sub-Import and Sub-Export Warehouse Keeper, Sub-Accountant, Sub-Treasurer, Accountant-General, Accountant for keeping the deposit accounts and Secretary. The gratuity made to Mr. Frankland as Sub or Assistant Warehouse Keeper was on account of his standing in Council as well as the particular services done by him on the alteration some time since made by carrying on the investment at the *aurungs* and was ordered to cease upon his quitting that employ, but if it should [...], as we apprehend it may, a more laborious engagement than [...] others called Assistants in the other different branches of our business, we give you a liberty of extending the gratuity of the Sub-Warehouse Keeper to current rupees one thousand. In regard to such other departments which have subsisted and are still necessary, and to which we have made no appointments, we leave them to be filled up at your discretion, hoping you will direct your choice to the most deserving and best qualified of our junior servants for their respective employs, and that neither partiality or private friendships or connections will have an influence in your denominations in respect thereof.

139. In regard to our subordinates we have already intimated to you our resolution that every thing tending to show or parade should be entirely abolished, and that even the appearance of a military force is to be laid aside, but shall submit to your determination the number of peons that are absolutely necessary for protecting our factories, and for preventing or repelling any attempts for plundering or insulting the same, recommending to your particular attention the keeping the quantity of money or effects at each of

as low as possible, as a discouragement in the first instance to attempts of that nature.

140. Having determined to confine the expences of each subordinate within reasonable, but at the same time decent bounds, we shall admit of no expences to be passed to the Company's account on the general books of each factory than what will be herein after specified, that of maintaining the peons and what regards the sending of goods etc., from one place to another excepted, and do repeat that the number of our European covenant servants to assist at each settlement be as small as the nature and course of their business can possibly admit of.

141. The number of gentlemen appointed to the rotation of President requiring a new appointment to the several Chiefships of our subordinate factories, we do direct therefore that Mr. Frankland be appointed Chief of Cossimbuzar unless the Chiefship of Dacca be more agreeable to him, in which case he is to make his option, and Mr. Collet be appointed Chief of such of the two subordinates as Mr. Frankland shall decline.

142. Mr. Mackett is to be appointed Chief at Luckipore unless his continuance at Fort William be more agreeable to him; in that case it is our intention that he be appointed Land Custom Master, and Mr. Amyatt is to be Chief at Luckipore. In regard to Bullramgully you are to appoint a Resident of a rank below the Council, with such junior servants as you shall think absolutely necessary for conducting the business of that factory which we think may be extended and rendered more considerable.

143. Whatever gentlemen, whether of the rank of Council or below it, who are Resident at our subordinates are to receive the same appointments there, which they would [have] been entitled to at Fort William, and no other except in the case herein after provided for, or herein before excepted in regard to peons etc.

144. For the better accommodation of each factory we do hereby direct and appoint that the Chief of Cossimbuzar be allowed annually the sum of four thousand current rupees for the keeping of a table and in full of any other emoluments or allowances whatsoever, and that the further sums to be allowed to the Chiefs of our other subordinates be expressly on the same conditions, viz., to the Chief of Dacca current rupees three thousand, to that of Luckipore two thousand five hundred current rupees, and the Chief or Resident at Bullramgully twelve hundred current rupees per annum. And we are further to explain our intentions in regard to these several appointments, that such allowances for table expences is given in order that the junior servants at each factory should partake thereof. Nevertheless, if there should be a want of that harmony we should wish to preserve and maintain between our senior and junior servants or that it should for any other reasons be more agreeable to one or both parties to diet apart, we do direct that in such case the Chief shall allow and pay [out of] sum granted to him to each junior servant above the rank [of] writer thirty current rupees per month, and to each writer [twenty?] current rupees per month, to diet themselves.

145. These regulations we have thought it absolutely necessary to adopt, in hopes thereby to put an end to the exorbitant expences incurred of late at our subordinate settlements, and at Cossimbuzar in particular, where we

had so recent an instance of the little use of a garrison that hath determined us to permit no European soldiers at any of our subordinates. All our heavy cannon with most of the military stores must be withdrawn to Calcutta, but if you should be of opinion that a few small carriage guns of one or two pounders are necessary against sudden attacks of the mob, such may be kept and those only. The garrison and factory charges have of themselves been a load the Company can no longer support, without including the further one of bad debts which have been contracted within a few years. We do not limit these remarks to one factory only; Jugdea factory very lately furnished us with an instance of abuse in the case of Messrs Baillie and Playdell¹¹ heretofore animadverted upon by us.

146. Before we close upon this head, we must most earnestly recommend to the gentlemen of the Committee of Accounts that they be very attentive to the various articles of *darbar* charges, charges of merchandize, and presents, which we fear have been carried to much too high a pitch, that where they cannot be abolished, they may at least be greatly restricted, and no new incroachments permitted, and in regard to the last article (presents) they must always be applied for to the Presidency, the Chief pointing out what may be most agreeable; the complying therewith must be submitted to your discretion, in full persuasion that a very differing plan of oeconomy than we have heretofore experienced will be pursued therein.

147. *Dusticks* have been scandalously prostituted to the great prejudice of our revenue, equally iniquitous and detrimental to the Nabob. Many just regulations have at times been ordered but never executed, so cheap has our authority been held; however as we are determined never in future to pardon disobedience, we shall once more attempt to lay down such rules as will prevent abuses and preserve an harmony with the Mogul Government, for this perhaps may have been one of the fatal crimes of your late calamities.

148. We therefore order that the Custom Master do in future keep the register of *dusticks*, and no *dustick* granted but on oath made by the party demanding the same that the goods or merchandize specified be and are on his own proper account, and that he does not directly or indirectly therein cover the property of any of the natives of Bengal, free merchants or any others, excepting our investments contractors bringing down our goods (but not their own) and our covenanted servants, that the King or Moor's Government be not defrauded of their just duties and revenues, that the said oath be tendered by our Custom Master, who shall attest the same at one corner of the *dustick* before it is presented to the President for his signing and sealing. And in all respects when it does not clash with our present plan of regulations, you are to adhere strictly to the rules and orders laid down in our letters per *Somerset* and *Pelham* dated the 17th June 1748.

149. A declaration must be drawn up from your repeated standing orders against the abuse of *dusticks* and let the same be published in the different languages by the usual method of affixing at the fort gate, thereby to evince the Government that such abuses were not only contrary to our knowledge but to our repeated injunctions and orders on that head.

150. The Marine Branch has hitherto been greatly confused, and too much divided with few or no checks in the most material parts. The Bombay

methods have been so well digested that better cannot be adopted. You are therefore to adhere to the following rules:

First, the Master Attendant is to be head of this branch. The person you are already acquainted is Captain James Barton, from whose abilities and known good character we have reason to expect strict justice will be exercised towards us and no imposition to the trader.

Second, a Deputy Master Attendant must in future be appointed who, in the absence of the Master, is to execute this trust, but he is not to be ranked or esteemed one of the pilots; this duty is to be occasionally only, when you or the Master Attendant may [.....] necessary. This post you are also advised we have filled up in Mr. John Smith.

Third, experienced pilots are of such consequence that too much caution cannot be used. Every pilot elected must be by the Master Attendant, who with the two senior pilots are to examine him and report their opinions to the Board for your confirmation. The pilots are to be under the immediate orders of the Master Attendant and in his absence the Deputys.

Fourth, all marine stores are to be under your Storekeeper and kept in a separate warehouse, he taking great care they are not on their landin exposed to damage, or pilferage, but he is to make no sales to private traders, until the Master Attendant certifies they will not be wanted for our service. No stores are to be purchased for our account by the Storekeeper or Master Attendant, but the latter is to acquaint you in writing with the qualities and quantities wanting. The Board is then to receive sealed proposals and the lowest offer to be accepted, when the Master Attendant's duty will be to care-fully inspect that such stores have no exception, and if they are defective they are not to be received and he is to assign his reasons in writing.

Fifth, as our Master Attendant is to have the repairing of our vessels, we likewise direct that he pays all persons in the Marine Department, and to secure sufficient checks to these important branches, we order the following regulations:

That all masters or pilots of our vessels are to indent to the Master Attendant for such stores as may be wanted, who examining the same issues his warrant to the Storekeeper for delivery of the whole or part as he the Master Attendant shall see necessary. The warrants he must enter, and make the several masters account to him for the use of them, and the Storekeeper is to deliver his issues of marine stores to the Board monthly.

The wages of people from the pilot down to the *lascar* are to be settled by the Board assisting yourselves with the judgement and advice of the Master Attendant in writing.

All persons employed on the Company's vessels or other works belonging to the Marine are to be mustered daily, going and coming, by the Storekeeper's Deputy and the Master Attendant's Assistant, who are to sign them jointly, and the muster rolls are to be delivered you as vouchers for the Master Attendant's payments. These several rules strictly attended to, will prevent our being injured either by negligence or design.

Sixth, the Master Attendant must keep regular books, bring on every vessel, boat, its burthen and dimensions with their value, crediting the Store-

keeper all receipts of stores, and debting [sic] the vessels and boats when disbursed, to enter all charges, wages, repairs, occasional pay to workmen, and every expence minutely. His accounts are to be delivered the Board monthly, and his books transmitted to us annually. But that you may be at no loss in point of form we send in this ship's packet a sett of the Bombay Marine Books for your guidance.

Seventh, for the transacting so large a share of business as we now allot our Master Attendant, and with that order and method we expect, he must be accommodated with a convenient house, and such as will best suit this purpose is left to your discretion to provide. We also order him an Assistant, the best qualified from among our writers, and this is the person that with the Storekeeper's Assistant is directed to muster the daily workmen and sign the musters. This Assistant is also to pay the sailors' wages monthly on board the vessels, or when they are at Calcutta; he is to call them over as named and rated on the Marine Books, and report to the Master Attendant whatever appears defective or irregular.

Eighth, the Master Attendant is to keep a diary, noting all our vessels going in and out, where to, whence from, and to what end employed, accidents, losses, alterations, improvements or whatever else may be thought worthy our observations, transmitting the same to us yearly.

Ninth, he is annually to address us, and to be very particular as to the condition of the Marine, the docks, yards and on all other matters relative to his department, remarking upon the charges, with his reasons for the increase or decrease, and pointing out to us such amendments as may appear to him necessary. It is nevertheless our intention that such address shall be previously laid before your Board, that, if any thing should occur to you either by way of objection to or remarks on any part thereof, you may by the same conveyance transmit the same to us in order for our forming a truer judgement on taking the whole into consideration.

Tenth, he is to go down the river so often as may be judged necessary to survey the river, examine the buoys and shifting off the sands and to report his observations to the Board. He is also to enter such in his diary.

Eleventh, he is to take care that the Company's vessels laying before Calcutta have the best births, and all other vessels are to be birthed by his directions and in his absence by the Deputy.

Twelfth, the Master Attendant or Deputy is to survey all sloops and vessels that may be hired to carry the Company's goods, to look into the character of the masters, and if he judges proper may order a pilot on board.

Thirteenth, he is to make no alterations in the cabbins, or accommodations in our vessels, nor in any other shape but by applying to the Board, delivering in his estimates, which you are to allow or reject, as it may square with your opinions, but one thing we fix, that no sloop shall carry more than six guns.

Fourteenth, he is to go down the river, on dispatch of every ship belonging to the Company, to see they are not too deep and lumbered, and if the ship exceeds eighteen feet six inches when she sails from Ingellee, he is authorized and directed to take out as much from between decks as he judges necessary and to write us of his proceedings. You are to signify these our orders to the commanders of our ships, always in due time that no excuse may

be pleaded on their part. And we are farther to remark that as the arrival and dispatch of our ships by Council or others load us with an annual expence of many thousand rupees to defray their expences, we now order that all packets received and delivered together with all final dispatches shall pass through our Master Attendant only or his Deputy. Let him muster the ship's company, enclose receipts for the packets to our Secretary and write him what may be necessary. While he is on these several services, he is to be allowed six rupees a day, and if his Deputy four rupees; but be you careful his time is not loitered away, and this charge encreased upon us beyond reason.

Fifteenth, near the departure of our annual ships the Master Attendant is to deliver the Board an indent of what stores are wanted from England, distinguishing those for sale and use. The Storekeeper must likewise deliver in the list of marine stores remaining, noting in the same manner such as are for sale or use, and these are to be punctually transmitted us.

Sixteenth, the Master Attendant must have a watchful eye over the behaviour of our pilots. It's a matter of great importance to us and the traders, and therefore it seems absolutely necessary that the power of suspending them should dwell with him, but he must state their case with his opinion [to] the Board, when you are to determine upon dismissing or restoring them.

Seventeenth, all officers of vessels below the pilots and all sailors are to be entertained by our Master Attendant and dismissed by him when they misbehave, subject however in all instances to your controul and orders whenever you see proper to interfere.

Eighteenth, the salary of our Master Attendant is to be one hundred and fifty rupees per month, his Deputy's eighty rupees per month, and this to be in full for all allowances whatever excepting the allotments already made when they are on surveys and dispatches.

Nineteenth, for the encouragement of a capable carpenter and boatswain for the marine yard, we permit their pay to be forty five current rupees per month each.

Twentieth, you are to take effectual care to have sufficient quantities of timber and other material articles always ready for the use of the marine, and for that purpose you are to take all opportunities of purchasing the same where they can be most conveniently had, even before they are wanted, that there may be a constant supply in our stores, it being our intentions that neither the Master Attendant or any other person shall furnish us with timber or other material articles out of their own private stock.

Twenty first, but if upon any extraordinary occasion there shall be a want of timber etc., and you are under the necessity of making use of the Master Attendant's or any other person's, you may agree for such a quantity as may be necessary, provided the price does not exceed fifteen per cent upon the prime cost, our meaning being that we expect they make no large profit, though at the same time we would not have them suffer in their private fortunes by serving us.

Twenty second, you are to take particular care that the Master Attendant does not exact larger allowances for work done on private ships and vessels than are reasonable, and in case any complaint shall be made of that kind

you are to regulate and settle the same in any equitable manner, between the complainant and the Master Attendant.

Twenty third, it has been intimated to us that our sloops may be repaired at Ballasore under the inspection of the Resident twenty or twenty five per cent cheaper than at Calcutta, and without loss of time be again in the road on service, whereas by their return to Calcutta six or eight days are lost and a frequent deficiency of sloops in the road is the consequence. Whether this is a practicable and proper measure we cannot say. Therefore the Master Attendant must make a strict enquiry into it and report his opinion thereon to the Board, and if you find it a useful measure you may carry it into execution as far and in such manner as you shall think proper.

151. As a supplement to these our general regulations we offer the following as matters of great importance to your consideration:

152. Our servants at Bombay farm out the tobacco at thirty one thousand rupees per annum, though hardly a blade of tobacco grows upon that island. The *arrack* is farmed at thirty thousand rupees, when great part of the toddy is imported, and their coconut trees at twenty four thousand rupees. At Madrass the beetle is farmed for eight thousand pagodas per annum. Now, as you are in possession of considerable tracts by the cession of thirty eight villages, surely some great and profitable revenues may be raised, there will be a large field for exercising your abilities, since the consumers of those articles at Calcutta by a very moderate computation treble the inhabitants at either Presidency. It should seem that methods similar to those practised at Bombay might be adopted.

First, the farm is put up to sale in Council and given to the highest bidder.

Second, the rent is proportioned into twelve equal parts and paid monthly.

Third, all tobacco, *arrack* etc., brought into the town but by the farmer is forfeited, one half to the informer, the other moiety to the farmer.

Fourth, the Custom Masters and all officers at the entrance to the town seize for the farmer.

Fifth, the farmer is aided by the Collector of Rents and Revenues in all instances where he is injured. The payments are made to him, and it's his province in particular to support and protect the farmer or call upon him if he does amiss.

Sixth, the farmer erects as many shops as he pleases with the Collector's licence, and provided they are in such place as you judge proper. No person whatever is suffered to vend tobacco etc.

Seventh, they are to pay customs in common with others.

Eighth, the articles are interchanged, signed by the farmers and on the part of the Company by the Secretary.

153. If these regulations are admitted, those pitiful farms of tobacco shops, *bang* shops etc., now existing will of course be abolished, and if the inhabitants plant tobacco, coconuts, beetle or should they now be planted they must be deeply taxed, or rather as at Bombay a certain proportion of their produce is thrown to the farmer, and previously known, raises the value of the farm, for if this method is not strictly enforced it will not only enbarrass you but greatly depreciate your farms. However we must farther remark that this

tax is not carried so far as to discourage plantations; a medium is observed—you are at liberty to raise plantations of coconuts, beetle and tobacco on our accounts and farm them out. Your example may perhaps prompt the inhabitants to do the like. But remember that your leases do not exceed seven years (coconuts excepted) because the value of our lands to us must in some degree keep pace with their improvements.

154. The chief articles we imagine may be thrown into farms are tobacco, coconuts, *arrack* and beetle. To these may be added opium imported for consumption (what is for foreign markets to be under no restriction); if there are others your own discretion will direct.

155. If these several improvements take place, and your regulations of customs are established, there will be a necessity of enclosing your town to prevent clandestine practices, and this leads us to mention the ditch dug in the Moratta troubles for your defence but never compleated. We are told there remains about a mile to bring it to the river, and the finishing this will be a sufficient security. But as the work will greatly strengthen Calcutta against an Indian enemy, we will hope that the inhabitants may be brought to bear a share of the expence. However if the whole burthen should fall upon us, and upon a computation the sum appears too heavy, in such case transmit us the estimate and forbear until you hear from us.

156. Let there be an exact measurement made and sent us of the territory lately annexed, encourage all useful people to reside among you, and be not lavish of the ground in building and gardening, allow only what may be convenient, and if such a reform is judged right in the town of Calcutta, and a new measurement necessary, make the regulations immediately, for former allowances, encroachments or indulgences must be no rule now.

157. Since the foregoing we have been informed that by cutting the ditch from Dum Dum to Perrin's Garden it would incircle Calcutta and render your settlement very strong. This we mention for your notice.

Supplement

158. The *Edgecote* in her late voyage from Mocha run aground in the Streights of Babelmandel by which the ship and cargo were much damaged. She afterwards refitted at Bombay where enquiry should have been made into the occasion of her running aground, and as some inconveniencies arise from that omission, we think it proper to direct that it be a standing order in Bengal as well as at all our other settlements that in case an accident of any sort shall happen to any of the Company's ships an enquiry be made into it, if in port immediately, if at sea then on her first arrival, which enquiry shall be particularly entered on your consultations for our information.

159. Notwithstanding the reservation in our General Letter of the 31st January 1755, by which we had the liberty of stationing Mr. Charles O' Hara at any of our Presidencies, we do hereby direct that he do continue and be fixed on the list of covenant servants upon the Bengal establishment according to his station and standing, but we do reserve to the Company the right of his services in the capacity of an engineer whenever there may be occasion for them in Bengal of which you are to take due notice.

160. A memorial in behalf of the Royal Prussian Company established at Embden has been presented to us desiring the piece goods of the manufacture of Massulipatam valued at two hundred thousand Arcot rupees saved out of the *Prince Henry* of Prussia stranded near Bengal river and now in the hands of that Company's agents in Bengal, may be imported hither on some of our ships on payment of a reasonable freight for the same. We have signified to the Prussian Company's attorney here that we cannot comply with the request for importing those goods in the manner desired, but as the said memorial is recommended in the strongest manner by His Prussian Majesty's Minister, we have informed him that we would give you directions to purchase the said goods of their agents if they are proper for our trade and can be had on good and reasonable terms, or in case the said agents shall dispose of them in India and are desirous of remitting the produce thereof to Europe that you should receive the same into our cash and draw bills upon us for the amount at the usual rate of exchange. You are therefore hereby directed to comply on our behalf either to receive the goods or the produce thereof in the manner beforementioned, taking very particular care that you do not purchase the goods unless they are quite proper for us, and can be had on very reasonable terms.

161. The having exact calculates of the quick stock sent us from every settlement is of the utmost importance, as without them we cannot form the annual accounts we are directed by the by-laws of this Company to state. You must therefore without fail send us by every ship an account of the quick stock of your Presidency brought up to the day of the dispatch of such ship, and in the method directed from time to time from hence, particularly in our General Letter of the 30th August 1749. As we must suppose you have no copies of former accounts by you, we now send you copies of those we received by the *Denham* which are the last transmitted to us before the capture of Fort William.

162. It was very natural to suppose that you would transmit to us as near a calculation as could possibly be made of the loss we sustained in the late calamity, and the more so as it appears on your consultations of the 7th of December 1756 that you came to a resolution that such an account should be drawn out. We shall therefore expect such an account by the next ships, but if you have omitted the same, you are positively ordered to set about it immediately and transmit it to us by the first conveyance after the receipt of this letter.

163. Having the interest of our settlements upon the west coast of Sumatra greatly at heart, we have ordered our Deputy Governour and Council to keep up a correspondence and mutual intercourse not only with their superiours at Fort St. George, but also with you and our Presidency of Bombay, and as we expect each Presidency will do everything in its power to assist, supply and support [our] said settlements as may be most for the Company's interest, and [the] situation of affairs will allow, you are therefore to attend to the applications that shall be made to you from time to time by our said Deputy Governour and Council for the purposes aforesaid, and let the welfare of these settlements be one of the great objects of your care.

164. To supply the place of those lost in the late misfortune, we now send you exemplifications and copies of the charter of the 26th of His present

Majesty for holding courts of justice in the Company's settlements, of the commission for trying pirates, and of the necessary authorities empowering the appointment of courts martial, with the several books of instructions and papers relative thereto, which will more particularly appear in the lists of the packets to which therefore you are referred.

165. You must make use of every conveyance to send home all the French prisoners taken at Chandernagore, or any other places since, and you are to give orders to the commanders of every one of our ships to receive as many as they can conveniently carry, and you are to desire the captains of His Majesty's ships on their return to bring as many as they can.

166. As we have already given directions for your entirely demolishing Chandernagore, we expect you will carry the same effectually into execution and you are further directed to demolish all fortifications and works belonging to the French taken or which shall be taken since the capture of Chandernagore.

167. We do now comply with your repeated requests in taking off the prohibition that confined your trade to the Choromandel Coast to Madrass only. You shall in future be under no other restrictions than our servants of Madrass. These our orders shall be now signified to that Presidency and we hope you will merit this indulgence.

168. In the course of your consultations after the loss of Fort William and its subordinates we should have been pleased to have found some few instances of your parsimony in the distressed situation of the Company as well as particular persons, and a backwardness to come into an approbation as well as the discharge of many demands made upon us, for the convenience and support of those residing under our protection as our own servants to counter ballance the many we can but look upon as lavish and profuse. This remark is more particularly confined to the hire of vessels, where every thing that hath been demanded seems to have been immediately agreed to; to point out particular instances would be a task as irksome as the time for the dispatch of these ships and the immense load of extraordinary business which hath of late occurred will little admit of.

169. Nothing seeming more extraordinary in that respect than in the case of the ship *Doddaley*, we cannot pass it over in silence. That she was taken up for the preservation of the Company's effects and settlement may, and we believe is true, but the contract does not appear on which a demand is made on the Company for sixty four thousand rupees, the owners do not appear, the legality of the demand was not admitted by all the members of the Council, though the majority thereof ordered a certificate to be granted, for any thing that appears to us the greater part of that majority might be interested in the event, and there is a circumstance very strongly favouring that suspicion, which is the omission of a very remarkable letter, on the occasion which was delivered in, relative to that and some other points, which hath been laid before us (a copy of which goes in the packet) and nothing of it appears on the face of your consultations; as nothing should pass there, in the course of which debates arise and minutes, letters or any other kind of evidence are produced, which is not properly noticed thereon or entered after the consultation, so the sinking and withholding from us such lights must naturally

raise doubts in our minds, in regard to the motives thereto. We shall therefore expect, before so considerable a demand is discharged, that the whole of the affair be clearly and distinctly stated, as well in regard to the contract as the owners of the ship, and by whose directions the ship so soon [goes to] her station near the fort.

170. The other transaction is of a differing nature and relates to the sum of twenty two thousand rupees said to be paid into our cash for bills of exchange on the 6th June, which we think was that on which the news of the taking of Cossimbuzar and the Nabob's being in motion towards Fort William reached you. This transaction lay dormant till the 6th of August following, when a certificate was granted for that sum, on the Sub-Treasurer his certifying that such a sum had been so paid in. If it had been paid in, the Company's cash should have been credited for it; if it had such credit, why were not the bills it was said to be paid in for granted? From whence, except his memory, could the Sub-Treasurer have certified the payment? If the assertion or even a certificate from a junior servant is to be admitted as evidence to charge the Company with a sum of money, to what may not we be exposed? If such consequences had been attended to, we think you never could have permitted a certificate to be granted; and what reason have we to believe, admitting it's being in the treasury, that it might not and was not lying there with further sums we understand to have been deposited there for greater security to the proprietors? And might not the demand made on the 6th August be an expedient thought of to load the Company with this loss? Before payment is made or interest notes granted, these two points we expect to be truly and clearly stated, and transmitted to us for our determination thereon.

171. Through the whole course of your consultations we find no particulars of the various, and very great demands made upon you, as well as masters of ships as others for various stores and supplies furnished you and the inhabitants of Calcutta, as well as during the siege as at Fulta and since.

172. For our further satisfaction and that we may be better judges of the reasonableness of those demands, you are to transmit us copies of all bills delivered in, as well as those which payment was ordered of as those for which certificates were granted amounting to rupees five hundred and upwards.

173. In answer to the 36th paragraph of your General Letter of the 31st January 1757, we are truly concerned for the unhappy situation of such of the inhabitants as have suffered by the loss of our settlement, and we believe many of them have been ruined thereby and incapable to discharge the whole of their debts. The case of such persons we acknowledge to be very deplorable indeed, and wish it was in our power to relieve them. This, you are yourselves sensible, cannot be done without the interposition of the legislature by making a particular law upon this occasion. Any attempt for that purpose would in our opinions be attended with unsurmountable difficulties. The particular cases of the sufferers are not stated, nor any evidences offered in support of what is desired, nor can the creditors have an opportunity of being heard in opposition to their debtors and the general scheme of a bankrupt law is liable to so many objections that we are satisfied any application to Parliament for such a law would be fruitless and ineffectual. And we are inclined to believe that if the persons who have been rendered insolvent by means of the late

troubles will make a candid and fair discovery of their estate and effects and will throw themselves upon their creditors they will meet with all possible compassion and humanity, and by taking this method we think such persons as deserve it will most probably obtain discharges from their creditors as is frequently done here and most commonly with success.

174. We perceive by several of your consultations that application was made to you by persons who are possessed of bonds or notes of the Company to have duplicates or attested copies given them of such bonds and notes, and that you granted them accordingly. It does not appear to us for what purpose these duplicates or copies were desired, nor why you should give them, the original bonds or notes being actually produced to you, otherwise you could not have given attested copies of them. And we do not see why attested copies should be given, unless the copies were meant to serve as evidence against the Company. In such cases where [the] original bond or note may be lost or pretended to be lost, all [it] can serve to shew is that a bond or note, a copy of which is produced, did once exist, but as we understand all the bonds or notes pass by indorsement, the copy of the note is by no means an evidence that the original is lost or that it continued to be the property of the person who produces the copy, as the original may have been paid away for a valuable consideration, and may be got into other hands who may afterwards demand it of us, and thus the Company will stand exposed to pay the same twice over. For these reasons we direct you forthwith to call in all such duplicates and copies and that you do not upon any pretence grant any more for the future.

175. We likewise observe by the consultation of the 26th January you proceeded to pay the interest due on the Company's bonds and notes. This was after the place was retaken from the Nabob, and as we understand all our books and accounts were lost, what evidence was there to direct you, or how did it appear what interest was due upon each respective note? Possibly your method might be to indorse upon the bonds and notes all payments of interest and if so, that you calculated the interest from the time of the last indorsement. We desire to be satisfied of this fact, and we likewise direct you to send us exact copies of the forms of your bonds and notes, as we are sometimes at a loss for want of them, and if at any time hereafter you make any alteration in such forms, send us copies of the forms so altered.

176. It is now [not] improbable that in the late troubles some persons may really have lost their bonds or notes and others may pretend to have done so, and that applications may be made to you for payment or to have new ones granted in the place of such as may be alledged to have been lost. In either of these cases we direct you not to pay any of them or give new ones, but receive the application and strictly enquire into the same and put the [parties] upon making the best proof they can of their case and of all circumstances relating thereto, and transmit the same to us with the whole evidence that has come before you and your opinion upon each case, and we will then return our orders what shall be done with them.

177. With respect to such debts as we may owe or that may be owing to us, we are sensible the adjusting of them will be attended with difficulty, and we stand exposed to fictitious and unjust demands, as all our books and accounts are lost; we must therefore recommend to you the strictest care and attention

in the settling and adjusting of these accounts, and we shall therefore give you some hints which, with what may occur to yourselves, may contribute to the better settling of them.

178. If any person demands a debt as due to him from the Company, you are to require such person to deliver you his account; you are then to examine into it, and for your greater satisfaction in such cases where you think it necessary you must call upon such person to produce to you all his own books and entries relative to this account with the proper vouchers to support it. If he complies with this and gives you all such other satisfaction you think proper, you must then proceed to the settling of the account in the best manner you can. If any one refuses to produce his own books and accounts, or to suffer you to inspect them, or to give you all the satisfaction in their power, in all these cases you must suspend settling such accounts and must exhibit a bill in the Mayor's Court to compel such persons to set forth their accounts upon oath and to pray they may produce and leave in court their original accounts and entries for your inspection and to have liberty to take copies of such parts as you please and for such other satisfaction as you think necessary.

179. The same method may be taken with respect to such persons as may be debtors to the Company. If they will voluntarily produce [their] own original accounts and entries, you may from thence and such other information as you may procure be able to settle an account with such persons. If they refuse to produce their books you must apply to the Mayor's Court to compel them to it by filing a bill for that purpose. But we would not be understood that you should file bills in the Mayor's Court unless in such cases only where the parties refuse to produce their books, or give you any other reasonable satisfaction you may require, or in such cases where you apprehend some fraud or imposition is meant or attempted, and as it may so happen that some of the persons who may be indebted to the Company may be possessed of some of the Company's bonds or notes, in all such cases, you must insist upon all such bonds and notes being delivered up to you, and if such bonds or notes amount to less than is due to us, you must accept them in part of the debt and give credit accordingly. If they amount to more than the Company's debt you must take up the bond or note and pay the party the difference or give them a new bond or note for it.

180. As the treasure by these ships unavoidably consists of gold which we are sensible is not so proper for Bengal as silver, we have recommended it to the President and Council of Fort St. George to exchange as large a part of it as they can into bullion or rupees agreeable to such notices as they will doubtless be masters of from you, and we have strongly recommended it to them that the treasure so to be forwarded be to as large an amount as possible.

181. His Majesty having been most graciously pleased to order the *Grafton* of 70 and the *Sunderland* of 60 guns to proceed to the East Indies to join the squadron already there, they accordingly sailed with several of our ships under their convoy as by the accompanying list.

182. We have appointed Captain Alexander Zeigler and Captain James Spears to be captains on the Bengal establishment. They are to succeed in the order we have named them to the first companys wherein vacancies by

death or otherways of the captains thereof shall happen upon or after their arrival, and commissions are to be granted them thereupon accordingly. In the meantime, they are to have and receive, until such vacancies shall happen, captain's pay and they are to do duty whenever and wherever you shall order them and their services are wanted. If there is room in the *Warren* and *London* one or both will proceed to you in these ships, otherwise they will take their passage on the Bombay ships, and from thence get a conveyance to Bengal.

183. Captain Zeigler was appointed by ourselves a captain on the Bombay establishment by a commission bearing date the 12th February 1752, and Captain Spears had a captain's commission granted him by the Governour and Council of Fort St. George on their establishment dated the 22nd April 1754. We therefore direct that Captain Zeigler and Captain Spears do take rank upon our Bengal establishment according to the beforementioned dates, notwithstanding the dates of the commissions which are to be granted by you on vacancies happening as beforementioned.

184. James Lawrell, who was chosen a writer for Fort St. George, having gone through a course of instruction in the Royal Academy at Woolwich, and been recommended for having made a progress there in the qualifications for a knowledge of fortification, as you are in want of people of this turn, we have thought proper to transfer him to your establishment, and he is accordingly to take rank as a writer next after Richard Barwell. If he shall be found capable of rendering us service in that branch under our Engineer, he is to be employed therein and encouraged according to his merit, but his being thus to be employed must not prejudice his rank on the civil list.

185. We shall not enter upon the disputes that have lately passed betwixt our Resident at Bussorah and Messrs. Gee and Baldrick, because our Governour and Council at Bombay have determined them, though with some partiality towards Mr. Shaw. But we are sorry to see Mr. Baldrick's name so soon again in those quarrels, and we continue in the same sentiments of returning that gentleman to England if his behaviour is not cleared up to your satisfaction, and we once more declare to you, that if those free merchants or others dare to spurn at our authority, and misbehave to those entrusted with our [affairs] we shall assuredly withdraw our protection from those [offenders]. But there is a heavier charge exhibited by Mr. Shaw against Mr. Baldrick, that he has defrauded us of our consulage at Bussorah to the amount of three hundred *tomands*; this must be strictly and immediately enquired into, and if he is found guilty, recover the same and send him to England.

186. As we have lately been in a state of hostility with the Nabob of Bengal, and as it was doubtful whether our former grants were sufficiently explicit with respect to such booty and plunder etc., as might be taken by our land or sea forces from any of our Indian enemies, or in the course of a national war with any European power, we were advised and have accordingly applied to His Majesty who, by his letters patent under the great seal of Great Britain dated the 14th day of January in the thirty first year of his reign, has been graciously pleased to grant to the Company for their own use (under the exceptions therein mentioned) all such plunder and booty etc., as our land and sea forces may take from our enemies by sea or land, and also such

territaries as we may acquire by treaty, grant or conquest ; and we send you by the *Warren* one of the grants under the great seal, and a copy thereof by the said ship, and another by the *London*, to which for your fuller information you are referred.

187. You will observe that the Company in virtue of the said grant are entitled to the whole of the plunder and booty which shall be taken in wars, hostilities or expeditions by the Company's land or sea forces, but as we are willing to give all reasonable encouragement to our said forces, we do agree and accordingly direct that the plunder or booty so taken be divided into two parts, one part or moiety whereof is to be given among the captors and the other part or moiety is to be carried to the credit of the Company, excepting in land operations you are to observe that cannon, ammunition and military stores of all kinds are not to come into the division, but are to belong entirely to the Company. But if any ships shall be taken, the value of the ship cargo, ammunition, stores and every thing belonging thereto, are to be equally divided between the Company and the captors as before directed. As to the manner of dividing the moiety allotted for the captors and the proportions of each and every person concerned according to their several ranks and stations in the service, we must leave it to your discretion to act therein in such a manner as shall appear to you upon the whole to be most reasonable and equitable, sending us an account in every instance how and in what manner you distribute the same, distinguishing therein how much to each commission and warrant officer, and how much a piece to each private man. And as it is proba[ble] the plunder is divided which was taken by the King's and Company's forces upon the late expedition for recovery of our settlements in Bengal, under the agreement previously entered into by the Governour and Council of Fort St. George and the King's forces, whereby one moiety was to belong to the captors, if it was divided in Bengal, we desire you will send us a particular account how the proportion which belonged to our forces was distributed and that you will also procure and send us the account in what manner the King's forces distribut[ed] among themselves the proportion which belonged to them.

188. By the said grants all plunder or booty taken in wars, hostilities or expeditions where any of His Majesty's forces by land or sea shall be appointed and commanded to act in conjunction with the ships and forces of the Company is reserved for distribution in such manner and proportions as the King shall think fit. In consequence all such plunder or booty or the produce thereof must be kept entire. Previous therefore to any expeditions, you are to make an agreement with His Majesty's officers that the same be delivered into your possession or the produce thereof, giving us an exact account of the same that we may make the necessary application to His Majesty for the division thereof, presuming that as His Majesty will be graciously pleased to grant one half of such plunder or booty to the Company as he has done by letters patent of the 19th of September last in consequence of the agreement made between the Governour and Council of Fort St. George and the King's forces in the expedition against the then Nabob of Bengal and that the other half will be set apart for the use of the captors, in order to facilitate our application therefore for obtaining such a grant or grants, it will be necessary for you, previous to all and any expeditions, to make a particular agreement as was

done in the beforementioned case with His Majesty's officers, that one moiety of all plunder and booty taken, where the King's and Company's forces act jointly as aforesaid, be set apart or reserved for the Company, and the other moiety for the use of captors, and it will be necessary also that you make particular agreements in what manner and in what proportions the captors' moiety is to be divided among the King's and Company's forces, in which the plan we presume proceeded upon in the beforementioned agreement with His Majesty's officers may be your guide, unless a better and more equitable one can be substituted in its room. Lest you should not have a copy of the said agreement, we have given directions to the President and Council of Fort St. George to send you as soon as possible copies thereof for your information and guidance.

189. In the case of the capture of the French ship called *L'Indien* by Commodore James, we must suppose that if she was brought to Bengal you have secured the ship and cargo or the produce thereof, but as on the supposition of her being French property, the same cannot be divided before she has been legally condemned in the High Court of Admiralty here, you must cause the necessary depositions to be taken of the people belonging to the *L'Indien* to prove her to be French property, which together with the original books and papers belonging to the ship must be transmitted to the Court of Admiralty, and some of the people of the said ship whose evidence may be strongest to prove it French property must be sent also to give evidence for the same purpose. As this ship was taken by the Company's forces only, we presume the King will grant the whole of the capture to the Company, in which case it is our intention that one moiety shall be set apart for the use of the Company, and the other moiety be divided among the captors. But we shall give more particular directions when such a grant is obtained, and you are positively directed not to make any division without our express orders.

190. We have entertained another cadet Samuel Feake to serve the Company on their military establishment in Bengal, who is to proceed by the way of Bombay, and is to rank and be preferred, if he behaves well, next after John Bathoe mentioned in the 75th paragraph of this letter.

We are,
Your loving friends,

John Payne / J. Raymond / Chrstr. Burrow / M. Impey / John Manship / John Raymond / Rob. Jones / John Dorrien / G. Steevens / Charles Chambers / John Browne / M. Western / Hen. Hadley / Thos. Saunders.

London, 3d March 1758.

8

LETTER DATED 8 MARCH 1758

Thanks to their servants for their services—Disapproval of fortification of subordinate settlements—Supply of technical advice to the Nawab for fortifications—Congratulatory letter and presents for Mir Jafar—Congratulations to Clive on appointment as Governor and President of Fort William and its dependencies.

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. On the 14th of last month Captain Macleshin of the *Diligent* schooner arrived at this house from Limerick, in Ireland, with the unthought of, but most agreeable, news of the late revolution in Bengal and delivered us the several packets he was entrusted with, in which were the following letters (besides duplicates etc., of those of former dates, the originals whereof had been received by other conveyances) viz.,

From yourselves under date of the 20th August 1757.

From Colonel Clive to us of the 22nd August, and to our Secret Committee 26th July (in quadruplicate) and 6th and 22d August.

From your Select Committee to our Secret Committee dated the 14th July and 20th August. Also

From Major James Kilpatrick of the 10th August.

From Captain John Brohier of the 8th June (in duplicate) [and] 22d August, and

From Mr. William Perceval, late Chief of Vizagapatam; of the 8th August 1757, all addressed to us.

2. Before the arrival of the said advices, we had finished the General Letter to you under date of 2d instant, and were upon the point of dispatching these ships, which on this occasion we deferred, that we might have some time to consider what directions should be given on this happy reverse of fortune. The first thing was to reconsider our said General Letter, which we have accordingly done and are thereupon firmly of opinion, that the present situation of affairs does not require any material alteration in the plans, rules and regulations therein laid down for the better management of our affairs: we do therefore positively insist upon their being observed and carried into execution as far as possible. The directions for restraining luxury and enforcing diligence and economy are far more necessary at the present juncture of sudden affluence than under your late melancholy and depressed situation, that the rising race of our servants, who can have no reason to presume upon making their fortunes by such extraordinary events, may set down carefully and diligently to the Company's as well as their own affairs in the usual mercantile tracts; and the directions given with respect to the carrying on the business at all the subordinates without parade, military forces and at the most moderate expence are equally necessary and must be strictly observed.

3. Your conduct and behaviour in general in bringing about the late revolution, and the great advantages resulting therefrom to the Company deserve our grateful acknowledgement, and we do accordingly return our most sincere and hearty thanks to all and each of you for the same, as likewise to all other our servants, both civil and military, for the services they have rendered us on the occasion in their several situations and stations.

4. In consideration of the eminent and repeated services Colonel Robert Clive has done to this Company and in particular for the share he had in bringing about the late glorious and advantageous revolution in Bengal, we have appointed him to be sole President and Governour of Fort William, in

case it shall suit his health and convenience to continue in India, and he is accordingly hereby empowered and directed, in concert with the several gentlemen mentioned in the 45th paragraph of our General Letter of the 11th of November last who are to be of Council in the order they are named, to govern and manage all the Company's affairs at Fort William in Bengal and its dependancys with as full power and authority as the Governour and Council of Bengal have been usually invested with.

5. Colonel Clive as Governour is on course to be added to the Select Committee appointed by our letter of the 11th of November of which he is to be the chief and constant presiding member.

6. In case Colonel Clive shall be desirous of returning to England and accordingly leaves India or of his decease, then the rotation of the four gentlemen who are to preside alternately as President and Governour and in the Select Committee is immediately to take place in the manner mentioned and directed in our said General Letter of the 11th of November.

7. You will observe in the 134th paragraph of our letter of the 3d instant that the four gentlemen there mentioned are to be allowed, during the time that each of them shall preside as Governour and President, two thousand current rupees per month for a table and all other allowances whatsoever as Governour and President. This is to be understood as an allowance during their said presiding only, and not to be paid them so long as Colonel Clive continues the Governor and President.

8. According to the plan mentioned in the preceding paragraph the annual allowance of a Governour and President amounts to twenty four thousand current rupees. This allowance, therefore, is to be paid to Colonel Clive, and although we are satisfied that gentleman will serve the Company from principles of honour and gratitude, yet as a testimony of our regard for the great services he has rendered the Company, he is to have an additional allowance after the rate of one thousand pounds a year, which being a personal favour to him only is not to be drawn into a president for the future. The said annual sums of twenty four thousand current rupees and one thousand pounds are to be in full of all allowances whatsoever.

9. We proceed to make some remarks and give some directions in consequence of your advices now before us, which we shall do pre [...] much in the order they lie.

10. Captain Macleslin in the *Diligent* arrived at Limerick in Ireland and came from thence with surprizing expedition, and discharged his trust very much to our satisfaction. We had thought of returning this vessel again to you from that place, but the liberty you have given him of taking on board an adventure is such an obstacle as has entirely set aside our intentions, as all vessels on which goods are laden for England must by law import here. However it leads us to lay down this as a standing rule that you are not in future to allow or suffer any goods for trade to be shipped on any small vessel dispatched to us with a view only of bringing advices.

11. Your allowing several purchasers of goods at your sales a salvage of what was found (on your reestablishment) of the sortments they had purchased and paid for was certainly an equitable measure, and it was as equitable not to comply with Mr. Cruttenden's¹ request to be paid the ballance of his

purchase of broad cloth lost in the factory in consequence of your opinion that the goods in the factory which had been paid for were at the risk of the purchaser though not taken away at the late capture of the settlement.

12. You acquaint us you propose to establish your mint upon the same footing with that of Madras, but as there are many objections to the method in practice at that settlement, we would not have you adopt their plan, but you are to conduct it agreeable to the rules and regulations laid down on this head in our before mentioned General Letter of the 3d instant.

13. We observe you have anticipated our directions for settling at Patna, and that some of our servants were actually there. We expect our business will be conducted at that place with the utmost frugality. The plan therefore laid down for that purpose in our last letter must be as nearly complied with as possible.

14. You did very right in advising the other Presidencies not to send you any money or bullion until they heard further from you, as it would certainly be very imprudent to increase our risk by adding to the great sums you had and expected to have in your treasury. For the same reason the treasure which we intended for Bengal on the ships *Warren* and *London* is now wholly consigned to the President and Council of Fort St. George.

15. As all the treasure we send to Fort St. George this season is not adequate to the amount of the annual expences of that Presidency and the investments we hope for from thence, in order therefore the farther to lessen our risk in Bengal you are to supply them from time to time with what money they shall stand in need of, not only sufficient for those purposes but also for sending from thence to China on the Company's account the following season, where it will prove of great service. Our Presidency of Bombay must also be supplied if remittances are wanted there or may be of use.

16. We see no reason for altering our sentiments with respect to the fortifications to be constructed at Fort William, since we writ to you on this head on the 4th of May last, by our Engineer Mr. Mace, who, in several conversations with the proper committee here, is fully apprized thereof; we shall only add that as it is our meaning to have a compact place of strength at Calcutta, the size of it must be such as not to require more than one thousand Europeans at the utmost to defend it properly, and as even this number cannot without great difficulty be depended on, it would be more agreeable to fix the plan of your works upon the supposition of a garrison as much below the said number of one thousand men as may be consistent with the safety of the settlement.

17. The carrying on our business at the subordinate settlement without erecting fortifications, having garrisons or running into expences for shew and parade, according to the plan laid down in our letter of the 3d instant, is so agreeable to our sentiments, as well as yours previous to your last advices, that we can by no means listen to your proposal for fortifying Cossimbuzar, or any adjacent spot [at] the Company's expence, and you are not to proceed on this project; [if] the Nabob is desirous of erecting fortifications at Cossimbuzar, Rajamaul or elsewhere at his own expence, and to be garrisoned by his own people, you may oblige him with all convenient assistance of engineers for planning the works and instructing his people in the carrying them on,

St. George and Bombay, and the hazard those Presidencys have been exposed to, by drawing them off from thence, the charges of fortifications and rebuilding, replacing stores, encrease of our garrison, the loss of a season's investment, if not more, and many other obvious particulars are taken into the account, it will appear that the Company will still be considerable sufferers. It is highly reasonable therefore if the several inhabitants are paid, out of the money stipulated in the treaty with the Nabob for that purpose, the full amount of their respective losses, together with interest thereon, that all the surplus should be applied to the Company's use. We shall expect to hear you have acted in this manner, and that such surplus has been accordingly deposited in our cash, and we direct that you observe this as a rule for your conduct in the distribution of any further sums of money on this account. We do not intend by this to break in upon any sums of money which have been given by the Nabob to particular persons by way of free gift or gratuity for their services. It is the surplus of the sums we mean which are agreed to be paid by the Nabob in the 5th, 6th and 7th articles of the treaty with him. It is thought proper here to acquaint you that such surplusses, whatever they are, we propose to expend in such a manner as will tend to general utility and security of the settlement. They are therefore to be reserved for our further orders; and you are hereby directed to transmit us for our information, exact accounts of every person's loss[es], whether English or other inhabitants, on the late capture of Fort William and what has been paid to each of them in particular by way of indemnification for the same out of the moneys granted by the Nabob for that purpose.

24. From various reports that have reached us there is a distinction said to be made by you of private property, which in our opinion does no way square with the rules of justice and equity, and that is, the exclusion of Portuguese, *topasses* and other Christian natives from any share of the money granted by the Nabob. Now most certainly those poor unhappy people are comprehended under the 6th article of the treaty, and we hope have shared accordingly notwithstanding what has been reported.

25. Captain Brohier's indent for military stores is a very great one. We shall endeavour to provide as large a proportion as the present situation of publick affairs will admit of, and send them to you by the earliest and all conveyances. We shall also, agreeable to your request, give positive orders to the President and Council of Fort St. George to detain no part of them there.

26. We are under the greatest difficulties in raising recruits. However, we shall use our best endeavours to send you as many as can be procured and there are conveyances for, of which we shall give you notice from time to time. It is mentioned to us that a corps of two thousand Europeans at least is necessary for our service in Bengal, but as it is almost impossible that you can at any time have such number from the various difficulties that occur in transporting them, to instance in no others, you must form your designs and schemes upon what forces you may reasonably expect and not depend upon numbers which it will be impracticable to send.

27. The late Nabob having deservedly met his fate, what was mentioned therefore in our last with respect to the letter and present intended for him is on course void,



Robert Clive

Enclosure

Sir,

Our sentiments of gratitude for the many great services you have rendered to this Company together with the thanks of the General Court have been hitherto conveyed through the channel of our General Letter. But the late extraordinary and unexpected revolution in Bengal in which you had so great a share of action both in the cabinet and the field merits our more particular regard, and we do accordingly embrace this opportunity of returning you our most sincere and hearty thanks for the zeal, good conduct and intrepidity which you have so eminently exerted on this glorious occasion as well as for the great and solid advantages resulting therefrom to the East India Company.

We earnestly wish your health may permit your continuance in India for such a further term as will give you an opportunity of securing the foundation you have laid, as likewise to give your assistance in putting the Company's mereantile and civil affairs on proper and advantageous footing upon the plans now transmitted.

For this purpose, as well as in consideration of your [eminent] services, we have appointed you Governor and President of Fort William in Bengal and its dependencieis in the manner mentioned in the General Letter by this conveyance to which we have annexed an additional allowance of one thousand pounds a year as a testimony of our great regard to you.

We are,

Your loving friends,

John Payne / Lau. Sullivan / J. Raymond / Christo. Burrow / M. Impey / John Manship / Thos. Phipps / John Raymond / Rob. Jones / John Dorrien / G. Steevens / Charles Chambers / John Browne / M. Western / Hen. Hadley / Timothy Tullie / Cha. Gough / Thos. Saunders.

London, 8th March 1758.

The Hon'ble Robert Clive Esqr.

LETTER DATED 23 MARCH 1758

Replacement of the Rotation Government by a President and Council.

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Since signing our letters of the 3d and 8th instant, a quarterly General Court of the proprietors of the East India Company hath been held, when they came to the following resolution, viz.,

At a General Court of the United Company of Merchants of England Trading to the East Indies, held at their house in Leadenhall Street, on Wednesday the 15th March 1758.

“RESOLVED that the appointed rotation of four governours for Bengal as successors to Colonel Clive be immediately abolished, and that each of the Company’s principal settlements continue to be as heretofore governed and directed by a President and Council.”

2. In pursuance of which resolution we do hereby abolish and annul the said rotation of four persons appointed to succeed alternately by our General Letter of the 11th November last by the *Hardwicke*, and which was confirmed by our letter of the 8th instant, and therein ordered to take place on the death or absence of Colonel Robert Clive, whom we then appointed to be the sole President and Governour of Fort William, which appointment we now confirm, and for the more effectual carrying into execution the said recited order or resolution of the General Court, we do ordain, constitute and appoint the following named persons to be in conjunction with Colonel Clive of Council, for ordering, governing and managing all the Company’s affairs at Fort William in Bengal, and all its dependent places and settlements with as full power and authority as the Presidents and Councils in Bengal have been usually invested with viz.,

William Watts Esqr second in Council next after our said President Robert Clive Esqr.

James Kilpatrick Esqr as Major and third of Council and to remain so without rising to a superior rank therein.

Charles Manningham Esqr	fourth
Richard Becher Esqr	fifth
John Zephaniah Holwell Esqr	sixth
Mr. Paul Richard Pearkes	seventh
Mr. William Frankland	eighth
Mr. Matthew Collet	ninth
Mr. William Mackett	tenth
Mr. Peter Amyatt	eleventh
Mr. Thomas Boddam	twelfth
Mr. Richard Court	thirteenth

3. In case of the death or absence of Colonel Robert Clive, Charles Manningham Esqr is hereby appointed to succeed to the chair, and we do direct that he be then President and Governor of Fort William accordingly.

4. In case of the death or absence of Charles Manningham Esqr, John Zephaniah Holwell Esqr is hereby appointed to succeed to the chair, and we do direct that he be then President and Governour of Fort William accordingly.

5. And in the case of the death or absence of Col. Robert Clive, Charles Manningham and John Zephaniah Holwell Esqrs, Richard Becher Esqr is hereby appointed to succeed to the chair; and we do direct that he be then President and Governour of Fort William accordingly.

6. Colonel Clive as President or the President for the time being is in course to be of the Select Committee as appointed by our letters of the 11th of November last and the 8th instant, of which he is to be the chief and constant

presiding member. And in case of a vacancy or vacancies therein by death or absence of any member or members thereof, they are to be filled up by such person or persons as the President for the time being and the rest of the Select Committee shall think fit.

7. All other orders and directions in regard to conducting the Company's affairs contained in our several letters of this season are hereby confirmed, as well as what relate to the various appointments and allowances, except that the allowance of one thousand pounds a year mentioned in the 8th paragraph of our letter of the 8th instant as an additional and personal allowance to President Clive is not to be continued to his successor.

8. Should any alterations be necessary in regard to appointments in the different branches of the Company's business, they will be considered of and our orders in consequence thereof transmitted by the ships *Prince George* and *Bombay Castle*, which are getting ready with all possible dispatch.

We are,

Your loving friends,

John Payne / Christ. Burrow / J. Raymond / M. Impey / Thos. Saunders / John Manship / Maximn. Western / John Dorrien / G. Steevens / Charles Chambers / Hen. Hadley / John Browne / John Raymond / Rob. Jones / James Creed.

London, the 23rd March 1758

10

LETTER DATED 11 APRIL 1758

Confirmation of the constitution of Fort William—Personnel of Select and Secret Committees.

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. By the General Letter of the 23rd ultimo you were advised that a General Court had abolished the rotation of four governours and in consequence thereof several alterations were then made by the majority of the last Court of Directors. The 5th instant came on a new election and we, having maturely weighed and considered the conduct and merit of individuals, do hereby annul and make void every appointment made by the *Hardwicke's* letter of the 11th November with those by these ships of the 8th and 23rd ultimo (Colonel Clive's excepted) and do now constitute and appoint the establishment for our Presidency at Calcutta to wit.

2. That Colonel Clive be our President and Governour with the emoluments heretofore mentioned, and in case of the death or absence of Colonel Clive, William Watts Esqr is hereby directed to be the President and Governour with a salary of two thousand rupees per month in full of all allowances whatever, and Mr. Charles Manningham is hereby appointed to succeed to

the chair on the death or absence of Mr. Watts when the rank of our servants is to stand as follows, each to rise and succeed in his turn viz.,

Colonel Clive	President
William Watts Esqr	second
Major James Kilpatrick	third and to remain so without rising to a superior rank therein.
Charles Manningham Esqr	fourth
Mr. Richard Becher	fifth
Mr. Paul Richard Pearkes	sixth
Mr. William Frankland	seventh
Mr. Matthew Collett	eighth
Mr. John Zephaniah Holwell	ninth
Mr. William Mackett	tenth
Mr. Peter Amyatt	eleventh
Mr. Thomas Boddam	twelfth
Mr. Richard Court	thirteenth

3. In our letter of the 8th March several gentlemen of Council are named to chiefships and likewise posts at Calcutta, but as these nominations in your present critical situation may put you under difficulties, and we may possibly confine servants to one place when they may be more properly employed for our service, we therefore relying upon your integrity and experience do revoke all our former nominations to chiefships and the posts at the Presidency and comit the whole to your direction, remarking only that great care must be taken to have faithfull and capable servants at Cossimbuzar best known and most agreeable to the Nabob.

The Select Committee is to consist of five persons, namely

President Clive

Mr. Watts

Major James Kilpatrick or the Major for the time being.

Mr. Manningham and

Mr. Becher.

And in case of a vacancy or vacancies therein by death or absence of any member or members thereof, they are to be filled up by such person or persons as the President for the time being and the rest of the Select Committee shall think fit.

4. The gentlemen of the present direction who are appointed the Secret Committee for the ensuing year are Laurence Sullivan, Roger Drake, Christopher Burrow, Nathaniel Newnham Junr and Henry Plant Esqrs and three of whom are a quorum.

We are,

Your loving friends,

Lau. Sullivan / Thos. Rous / Fredk. Pigou / G. Rooke / Heny. Savage / Hy. Crabb Boulton / Cha. Cutts / John Boyd / Thos. Phipps / Henry Plant / Will. Barwell / Timothy Tullie / Geo. Dudley / John Harrison.

London, 11th April 1758

LETTER DATED 12 MAY 1758

Supply of muskets, armours and men—Officers of artillery company not to succeed to vacancies in non-artillery companies—Precaution to be adopted in time of siege and after.

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. The several letters we have writ to you by the ships of this season were under dates of the 3rd of August and 11th of November 1757, also of the 3d, 8th and 23rd of March and the 11th of April, which four last letters were sent in duplicate by the *Warren* and *London* and you will receive triplicate and quadruplicate of them by the ships now under dispatch, *Prince George* and *Bombay Castle*.

2. The intention of sending to Bengal the said two ships *Prince George* and *Bombay Castle* is, as we mentioned in our letter of the 8th of March, in some degree to comply with your pressing request for men and stores.

3. With respect to military stores we have used our utmost endeavours to provide as many as possible though under the present situation of publick affairs they are not in proportion to our intentions and wishes. For the particulars we refer to the accompanying invoices and the bills of lading, as also for the several other articles consigned to you on these ships.

4. Among them you will find some musquets and armours stores intended for the use of our settlements on the west coast of Sumatra which are distinguished in the respective invoices, and we would have you take the first opportunity of a safe conveyance to forward them to the Deputy Governour and Council at Fort Marlborough who are much in want of them.

5. The *Prince George* will bring you a compleat company consisting of about one hundred men exclusive of officers raised by Captain Robert Delaval who has our commission for commanding the same, and on the *Bombay Castle* we send upwards of sixty recruits to be incorporated among the rest of our forces on the Bengal establishment.

6. On these ships we also send the following young gentlemen who are to serve the Company as cadets in our forces on the Bengal establishment and are to be preferred in the order they are named next after those you have been advised of in the former letters if they behave well viz., Samuel Feake, Daniel Smith, Charles Vaughan, Dudley Davis, Francis Mellish, William Brooke, John Hackett, James Corncloup, Charles Gardner, Charles Perry and Theodore Winckelbleck.

7. The officers who take their passage on these ships appointed to serve on our Bengal establishment are Captain Alexander Zeigler, Captain James Spears, Captain Hugh McKie and Captain Robert Delaval, Lieutenant Christian Hasenclever and Lieutenant Frederick Cob Pitman, also Ensign Gilbert Ironside.

8. We have already in our General Letter of the 3d of March given

you our directions with respect to Captains Zeigler and Spea[rs] to which therefore you are referred.

9. Captain McKie is to be captain of that company which shall first become vacant upon and after his arrival at Fort William next after and when Captain Spears shall have been provided for and a commission is to be thereupon granted him accordingly. In the meantime, he is to have and receive, until such vacancy shall happen, captain's pay and he is to do duty whenever and wherever you shall order him and his service is wanted. He is to take rank of Captain Delaval. In other respects the date of the commission you are to give him upon his succeeding to a vacancy will determine his rank, except only that he is always to take post and rank in preference to and before Captain Gibert Carter (who is an officer on our military establishment at Bombay), as often and whenever it shall happen they are or may be engaged in service or roll on any tour of duty together, he having been superseded at Bombay as we are well assured without cause by the said Captain Carter.

10. We have given Captain Delaval a captain's commission to command the company he has raised and is embarked as before mentioned on the *Prince George*. His pay is to commence [upon] his arrival at Fort William, and he is to take post and rank as captain from the time of his arrival aforesaid, and next under Captain McKie. You are to take notice that as Captain Delaval has raised this company in his own country and at his own expence he is not to be removed from the command of it.

11. Lieutenant Christian Hasenclever is to succeed as lieutenant to the first vacancy that shall happen in any of our company upon and after his arrival at Fort William, and you are thereupon to grant him a commission accordingly, the date whereof is to determine his rank. In the meantime, he is to have and receive, until such vacancy shall happen, lieutenant's pay, and he is to do duty whenever and wherever you shall order him and his services are wanted.

12. Lieutenant Frederick Cob. Pitman has our commission to be lieutenant of the beforementioned company raised by Captain Delaval. His pay is to commence upon his arrival at Fort William, and he is to take post and rank as lieutenant from the time of his arrival aforesaid and next under Lieutenant Hasenclever.

13. We have also given a commission to Gilbert Ironside appointing him ensign of the before mentioned company raised by Captain Delaval. His pay likewise is to commence upon his arrival at Fort William, and he is to take post and rank as an ensign from the time of his arrival at Fort William aforesaid and next after the last person who shall have been appointed an ensign in our forces there before such his arrival.

14. Upon reconsidering the directions given in the General Letter of the 31st January 1755 for the officers of our artillery company to succeed to vacancies as they happen in the military companies, we are convinced, if those directions take place, that company will never answer our intentions, as the officers who would in such case be introduced into that corps will be generally unexperienced and not qualified in artillery affairs. We do therefore hereby revoke those directions and order that in future the artillery officers

do remain in their own corps, but this by no means to prejudice their rank with respect to the rest of our forces which is to be according to the date of their respective commissions.

15. In order to introduce as many experienced officers into our said artillery company as possible, we applied for that purpose to His Grace the Duke of Marlborough, Master General of His Majesty's Ordnance, who has accordingly been pleased to give discharges to Diederick Adolph Wilmers, Paul Nedrick and George Frederick Kaylor belonging to the regiment of artillery, who are recommended to us as persons capable of being good officers. We have therefore appointed them lieutenant fireworkers in the company of artillery on the Bengal establishment, and they now take their passage in the *Bombay Castle*. Their pay is to commence on their arrival, and they are to be advanced as vacancies happen in the said company, in the order they are named according to their merit and good behaviour.

16. The President and Council of Fort St. George have desired that we would give orders to confine the trade of the West Coast to our servants there, and prohibit all vessels from your Presidency and Bombay from trading thither, but as we see no reason for deviating from the directions and regulations we gave and made last year for a reciprocal freedom of trade, instead therefore of complying with the said request, we confirm those orders and regulations, being fully satisfied our servants on the West Coast will find their advantage in as well as that they will prove of general utility.

17. It may be necessary for your information that by the appointment of Colonel Clive to the Government of Fort William, station of second in Council of our Presidency of Fort St. George became vacant. We have therefore thought proper to appoint Mr. Robert Orme to be second in Council there, and in case of the death or coming away of Mr. Pigot he is to be succeeded as Governour and President of Fort St. George by the said Mr. Orme.

18. Since what we writ to you in the 189th paragraph of our General Letter of the 3d of March with respect to the captain of the French ship called *L'Indien*, we have received by the *Walpole* a letter from Captain James containing a very full detail of the whole affair and his proceedings thereon, also the depositions of two of the lieutenants taken before Governour Pigot, Mr. Powney, Mr. Orme and Mr. Smith in the capacity of His Majesty's justices of the peace for the town of Madrass, to prove that the said ship *L'Indien* with her cargo was at the time of her being surrendered to Capt. James the property of the East India Company of France. We have laid the whole before Council for their opinion in what manner we are to proceed, but as none of the said ship's books and papers have been transmitted to England or any persons belonging to the ship sent to prove before the Court of Admiralty her being French property, it is doubtful whether the said depositions only will be sufficient to procure a condemnation. If therefore it lies in your power to cause the original books and papers to be transmitted to us, or to send any persons belonging to the ship for the purpose aforesaid, you are to do it by the first conveyance, also authenticated copies by another conveyance keeping the like also by you. In the meantime if the ship and cargo or the produce thereof should be in your hands you are to secure the same, and make no

division thereof until you have our further directions agreeable to our [said] General Letter of the 3d of March.

19. In order to guard as much as lies in our power against those striking calamities that have befall us in the captures of our settlements of Madrass and Bengal, we have appointed a succession of capable officers to the chief command of our military. Still as these must be governed by the civil branch, we cannot deem our settlements in that state of security as they must be if the military powers could operate without such controul in times of danger. We therefore, having with great attention well weighed the important subject, do now lay down the following rules to all our Presidencies, and which you our Governour and Council must strictly adhere to.

20. That whensoever it shall be your misfortune to have the settlement attacked by any enemy whatever, the powers of the Governour and Council are so far as respects its defence then to be suspended, and the sole authority shall be vested in our President, the Major, the Engineer, the Master Attendant for the time being and the next most capable military officer to be appointed by the said persons. And should there happen in choosing such officer to be an equality of voices, in such case the Governour and Council are to appoint the person, and these are to be the military government in this exigency, and whoever is defective in his duty must be tryed by a general court martial. And we lay it down to you in a standing rule, that no fortification be given up without a breach made and standing one assault, unless you are in want of ammunition and provisions. This military authority is to exist no longer than whilst the enemy is before the place and the settlement in danger, but when it's restored to a state of safety, this military government is then immediately to be [dissolved], the President and Council are to reassume their own powers and our affairs are to be conducted by the same authority as now exists. But should it ever be your misfortune to be reduced to extremities and the said military power under the necessity of compromising with the enemy, we direct that such treaty or agreement be considered and digested by our Governour and Council, and it must receive their approbation. As Colonel Lawrence is, according to our former appointment, Commander-in-Chief under the Governours and Councils of all our forces in the East Indies, if therefore he shall happen to be at Bengal he is to be one of the said military government and take rank next to the Governour.

21. We have already laid down some directions respecting the powder and ammunition and the surveying of our military stores, that they are always good and sufficient, but we now judge it necessary to place this important trust with a committee, who are accordingly every three months or oftener if you judge it necessary, to examine and survey our magazines, the fortifications, ramparts, guns, carriages, platforms, arms, granary, in short take under their consideration and inspection even the most minute articles, and constantly to remark to the Board all defects and deficiencies, it being our meaning and intention that our settlements should be kept in all respects in a state of defence, and provided with ammunition and provision. We will therefore have no quantities of ammunition (particularly powder) or military stores sent from your garrison to other places without a report first made [to] you by this committee, assigning reasons for their approval or disapproval. The whole of their transactions are to be entered on your consultations, but

for [our] observation let them be transmitted to us seperately. And we appoint the Major, Engincer and Master Attendant for the time being to be this committee.

We are,

Your loving friends,

Lan. Sullivan / R. Drake / N. Newnham Junr. / Christo. Burrow / Henry Plant / Cha. Cutts / G. Rooke / Hy. Crabb Boulton / Heny. Savage / Timothy Tullie / John Harrison / Hen. Hadley / Frcdk. Pigou / John Raymond / John Browne / John Manship / John Dorrien / G. Steevens.

London, 12 May 1758.

12

LETTER DATED 1 NOVEMBER 1758

Council's weak management and gross neglect—Personnel of new Secret Committee—Intentions of French Navy—Despatch of Royal George and ammunition to Fort St. George—Specification of exports to India—Risks of despatching bullion—Dispatch of saltpetre.

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. Our last General Letter was dated the 12th May 1758 and went in triplicate by the ships *Prince George* and *Bombay Castle* a triplicate whereof you will receive by this conveyance.

2. On the 11th September we received by the *Lisbon Mail* a triplicate of your General Letter by the *Marlbrough* brought by a Portuguese ship called the *Neustra Senhora dos Prazares* dated the 10th January. As the *Marlbrough*, nor indeed any one of our ships are yet arrived from any part of India or China, we have received no other letter from Bengal but the beforementioned one since the 12th of May, and here we cannot avoid expressing our surprise that you did not write a short additional letter by the said Portuguese ship to give us an account of your transactions from the 10th January to the time the said Portuguese ship left Bengal which was upwards of a month after a period in which we make no doubt some very interesting events happened.

3. We now send the *Duke of Dorset* with this letter containing some general advices and directions necessary for your earliest information. The most material and what principally occasions this despatch is our resolution for not sending any treasure either to you or our Presidencies of Fort St. George or Bombay this season as will be mentioned in the sequel of this letter. The *Diligent* sloop is now also under dispatch for Bombay with advices for that Presidency of the like purpose with this, yet for fear of any accident happening to the *Diligent* or that by any accident the *Duke of Dorset* should come to Bengal before she has been at Fort St. George, you are to take the earliest

opportunities of conveying to the Presidents and Councils of both our said Presidencies such parts of this letter as may be proper for their information and in a particular manner what respects our resolution as to treasure.

4. We shall pass over the beforementioned triplicate of your letter by the *Marlborough* until your consultations are received and well considered because from the lights at present before us there appears such flagrant instances of weak management, such gross neglects of our interest that, were the facts properly established, would oblige us to animadvert on your conduct in the severest terms. However, we are willing to hope that many things may be cleared up more to our satisfaction and your credit.

5. The gentlemen whom we have appointed to be the Committee of Secrecy this season are Laurence Sullivan, the present Chairman of the Court of Directors, Roger Drake Esqre Deputy, Christopher Burrow, Nathaniel Newnham and Henry Plant Esqres, three of whom are a quorum. The instructions and directions the said Committee may think proper to send are to be strictly observed and complied with by all and every the person or persons to whom they are directed.

6. The war with France is still continued with great vigour and we have the pleasure of saying that, by the steady conduct of our Government and the superior force and success of the British Navy, that of France is greatly reduced and the remainder confined in a great measure to their ports; their commerce likewise is at the lowest ebb. The only efforts of consequence the French make by sea and seem to be most [intent] upon are the East Indies where also we flatter ourselves, from the early intelligence which all our settlements have had of the naval and land forces under the command of Messieurs Dache and Lally and the great loss as we have been informed those forces have met with by sickness, they will make no great impression. We have lately received intelligence from Illa Grande at the [Brazils] that in the month of May last four large French ships were at that place being part of a fleet of eleven which sailed together from France and that the said four ships were waiting for the remaining seven in order to proceed in company to the East Indies. Whether they had any one or what number of land forces on board we are not informed, nor whether any other French ships sailed last season for India.

7. We have made applications to His Majesty's ministers for some ships to proceed to the East Indies to reinforce the fleet now there and we flatter ourselves from the favourable reception we met with our request will be complied with as far as may be consistent with the general service of the nation in any other parts of the world.

8. It is our intention to supply all our settlements this season with as many recruits and with as large quantities of military stores as our ships can conveniently carry. With the respect to the recruits we are under great difficulties in raising them but our utmost endeavours shall be exerted to send as many as possible which we hope will be at least sixty on each ship.

9. We have so often and pressingly recommended your being on your guard that we need only refer you for the same to our several letters since the commencement of the war and we shall rest assured that there will be no care wanted on your parts to frustrate as much as lays in your power all attempts of the enemy wherever they may be directed.

10. We have taken into the Company's service this season twenty one ships and stationed them in the following manner viz.,

Ships	Tons	Commander	Consignment
<i>Duke of Dorset</i>	499	B. Forrester	Coast and Bay
<i>Earl of Holderness</i>	499	R. Brooke	St. Helena and Bencoolen
<i>Delawar</i>	425	J. Quallett	
<i>Esscx</i>	499	G. Jackson	Fort St. George and China
<i>Valentine</i>	499	W. Fernell	
<i>Pocock</i>	499	T. Debuque	
<i>Denham</i>	499	W. Tryon	
<i>Suffolk</i>	499	R. Lewin	
<i>Oxford</i>	499	W. Webber	Canton
<i>Walpole</i>	499	F. Fowler	
<i>Hector</i>	499	J. Williams	Madeira, Coast and Bay
<i>Edgecote</i>	499	J. Pearse	
<i>Chesterfield</i>	499	E. Carter	
<i>Calcutta</i>	499	G. Wilson	Limpopo
<i>New Ship</i>	499	G. Lindsay	
<i>Stormont</i>	499	H. Fletcher	Bombay
<i>Harcourt</i>	499	W. Webber	
<i>Clinton</i>	499	J. Nanfan	
<i>Griffin</i>	499	T. Dethick	
<i>Godolphin</i>	499	W. Hutchinson	
<i>Houghton</i>	499	C. Newton	

11. Besides the before mentioned ships in freight we shall send to India this season the ship *Royal George* which we have lately built on the Company's account, burthen 400 tons, carrying 80 men and 20 guns.

12. We have it also in our intentions to send to India the *Prince Henry* packet and the *Syren* and *Diligent* sloops or some of them to such places and on such services as circumstances and the situation of affairs may render necessary, the latter of which is now under dispatch for Bombay.

13. The *Duke of Dorset* and *Earl of Holderness*, the first for the Coast and Bay and the other for St. Helena and Bencoolen, are now likewise upon dispatch. The six Fort St. George and China ships will be dispatched about the end of November, the two direct Canton ships and the two Limpopo ships and the *Calcutta* for Madeira and Coast and Bay about the middle of December, the *Stormont* and the *New Ship*, Captain Lindsay, for the Coast and Bay the beginning of February and the five Bombay ships towards the end of March. In order to avoid as much as possible the danger of having the supplies for our island St. Helena and the West Coast intercepted by the enemy we have determined that the two ships destined for those places shall leave England at different times. The *Earl of Holderness* therefore will be dispatched as before mentioned and the *Delawar* about the middle of December.

14. The Company's own ships will be dispatched at such times as shall be found most convenient.

15. As you may be assured we shall use our utmost endeavour to get the

several ships away by the times before mentioned, you may pretty well form a judgment as to their arrival at their destined ports in general and of those in particular which fall to your department and may be the better able to make the necessary dispositions, as well for the securing as much as lies in your power the safety of their import as the forwarding their dispatch without loss of time according to their several destinations.

16. The arrival and departure of the Company's shipping will as usual be sent you in lists certified by our Secretary to which therefore you are referred.

17. Lists of free merchants and all other persons who shall obtain our leave to reside in India will likewise be transmitted in the same manner.

18. That you may have a general idea of the intended export on the before mentioned ships as well for the several parts of India and China as to your Presidency in particular, we are to inform you that a considerable part of the tonnage will be taken up by the passage of military recruits and the extraordinary quantity of military and other stores indented for. The number of recruits and particulars of the stores for the service and use of the Fort William Presidency you will be fully informed of by the lists and invoices which will be transmitted by the respective ships.

19. The Government will send nearly in equal proportions on the 6 Coast and China ships 273 tons of naval and 310 tons of vitualling stores for the use of His Majesty's ships and about 25 tons of cloathing for Colonel Draper's battallion, all which are to be delivered at Fort St. George.

20. We have mentioned above that a considerable part of the tonnage will be taken up with military stores; the cannon shot, shells etc., intended for your Presidency only will amount to 550 tons and those for Fort St. George 580 tons.

21. The mercantile part of our export will consist principally of wollen goods, copper, lead and iron. The two latter articles for our Presidencies being in smaller quantities than usual are rather intended to supply the necessity our settlements may be in for them than with a view of trade; you will be the best judges of what use ought to be made of those consigned to you and we shall accordingly depend upon your acting therein for the best.

22. The intended export is in general proposed to consist of about the undermentioned quantities viz.,

For Bengal

832 bales of cloth, 162 bales of long ells of 20 pieces in each and 200 bales do of 10 pieces in each and one bale of flannels for cartridges to be shipped viz.,

370 bales on the *Duke of Dorset*

408 on the *Stormont*

417 on the *New Ship*, Capt. Lindsay.

320 tons of copper viz.,

100 tons on the *Stormont*

100 " " " *New Ship*, Capt. Lindsay

70 " " " *Duke of Dorset* and

50 " " " *Calcutta*

40 tons of lead and 40 tons iron to be laden in equal quantities on the ships *Duke of Dorset* and *Calcutta*.

For Fort St. George

630 bales of cloth, 2 bales of flannels for cartridges and 300 tons of copper to be equally divided on the six Coast and China ships, 40 tons of lead to be equally divided on the two ships *Pocock* and *Oxford*, and 40 tons of iron to be divided in like manner on the ships *Valentine* and *Pocock*.

For Fort Marlborough

Sundry goods, stores and some merchandise as will appear by the abstracts of the two ships' invoices which will be transmitted to Fort St. George from hence and to the amount of about £40,000 in treasure.

For Bombay and Persia

1357 bales of cloth and 150 bales of longells containing 20 pieces of longells each for Bombay, 100 bales of longells containing 10 pieces each and 445 bales for Tombrook, and 150 bales of longells of 10 pieces each and 394 bales of cloth for Busorah, all which bales will be consigned to the President and Council of Bombay in equal proportions on the 5 Bombay ships. The quantities of copper, lead and iron for this Presidency are not yet determined upon.

For Canton

221 bales of cloth and 300 bales of longells of 20 pieces each bale of longells to be equally divided on the *Walpole* and *Hector*, also 100 tons of lead on each ship and to the amount of about £ . . . in treasure in the whole, partly to be laden on the said two direct ships and the rest on the ships which are to call first at Fort St. George.

For Limpo

134 bales of cloth, 73 bales of longells of 20 pieces each bale of longells and 7 bales of brusselsens containing 150 pieces to be equally divided on the *Edgecote* and *Chesterfield*; also 100 tons of lead on each ship and to the amount of about £ . . . in treasure on the whole.

23. *The Calcutta*, Capt. George Wilson, is to call at Madeira to take in 350 pipes of wine which Messrs Chambers will consign in equal quantities to our Presidencies of Fort William and Fort St. George viz., 175 pipes of each; out of the quantity consigned to you the President and Council of Fort St. George have liberty to detain 50 pipes and no more on any account whatsoever, and we have acquainted them that they are not to detain that quantity or even any part thereof unless it is really necessary and more wanted at Fort St. George than in Bengal.

24. You will observe that in the foregoing general account of our intended export there is no mention made of treasure to be sent to Bombay, Fort St. George or Bengal. We are therefore to inform you that as we have determined to send you no bullion and to either of our Presidencies this season, it is necessary you are apprised of our motive. The great risk our ships must run from the French who are so powerful and numerous in the Indian seas is our principal inducement but we have the satisfaction of a better reason to

support this resolution, for by an estimate framed to the year 1760, allowing largely for the expences and incidental charges of Bombay and Madras, we find that those settlements will not only be able to return all their ships but that Bombay will be in circumstances to aid Madrass if it is necessary with a very considerable sum.

25. We can be under no apprehension that you will fail in the want of bullion at Calcutta. On the contrary, we have every reason to expect that you will be in a condition to assist Madrass, should their enormous expenses demand greater supplies than we have allowed for, because your Select Committee under date of the 14th July 1757 advise us in the following words:

"In this place we must beg leave to remark that Juggut Seat's determination the Company are to receive for 3 years successively the sum of 16 laacks and two thirds of rupees in space [sic] which, with the sale of your annual imports and the amounts of bills of exchange that we shall be under a necessity of granting, will be full sufficient we imagine for the respective investments of those three years without obliging the Company to run the risk of any bullion for the supply of this Presidency till that term of years is expired".

Since which you have received into our cash no less than £167,000 and give us room to fear by your unintelligible letter per *Marlbro'* that considerable sums will be drawn upon us in the like manner by the latter ships.

26. To prepare therefore our Presidencies for the relief of each other we now dispatch the *Diligent* snow to Bombay and the *Duke of Dorset* to Madras and your settlement. Our directions are for our Governor and Council of Fort St. George, if they should be under difficulties, to draw upon Bombay for the sums they may require but lest for unforeseen events they should not be in a situation to answer the demand from Madras, you are to supply them to the utmost of your power if called upon, as a failure may bring that important settlement to great distress and danger. We send this early notice that you may be prepared to make such remittance as the President and Council of Fort St. George shall be under the necessity of requesting and that all necessary measures may be concerted and settled between you accordingly as soon as possible.

27. In our before-mentioned estimate we recon [reckon] upon having all the ships we have lately taken into our service returned home from our several Presidencies the same season they arrive in India except two of the Bombay ships one of which is to proceed to China and the other to Mocha the following season. But as in the present situation of affairs and the events and disappointments which may happen it is impossible to give any particular directions either as to the quantity or values of their cargoes, we must therefore leave it to your prudence to dispatch home and assist and concert the necessary measures with our other Presidencies for dispatching home all or as many of our ships the season they arrive as possible. If you are able to load more than the charterparty tonnage on the several ships, such surplus tonnage is to be distributed among them as nearly in equal proportions as may be. Saltpetre is greatly wanted; if therefore you are deficient in other goods to complete the tonnage it is to be made up in that article and you are besides to load as much more as each ship can conveniently carry, taking care that such surplus

does not render her unfit for defence against any attacks in the voyage home. But as we rather apprehend circumstances will not admit of loading up any surplus tonnage and being desirous to avoid the excessive expence of a war demurrage, we would have you, rather than keep any ships or ship a year round, dispatch them home even though they should be dead freighted so far as 100 tons each ship, but then care must be taken that all our shipping be as equally and fairly on a footing as possible.

28. Should you not be in a condition to supply the demands of the President and Council of Fort St. George (which however we hope will not be the case), you are to encourage the paying as much money into our cash for bills to be drawn upon us on the usual terms as may be necessary for this present occasion only and if no more, but if that neither should fully answer the purpose, we make no doubt you will pursue such measures as will be most for the general interest of the Company, as a disappointment may be productive of bad consequences. You must give us the earliest advices of your proceedings on this important affair, the most material parts whereof must be in cyper, if you have an opportunity of forwarding them to Persia to be sent overland.

29. We acquainted you last season that we had formed all our supracargoes then chosen into one set or commission. Being fully satisfied of the utility of this method we have determined to continue in the same. We have accordingly this year appointed one set or commission composed of 10 persons, to be deputed in point of rank with respect to the whole body of supracargoes employed by the Company, three chiefs, six seconds and one fourth, which said ten persons are to transact and manage the Company's affairs in China as a council in which their rank is as follows:

Chiefs

T. Lockwood	Chief in Council
T. Fitz Hugh	2nd " "
R. Wood	3rd " "

Seconds

R. Mackett	4th " "
S. Devisme	5th " "
F. Kinnersley	6th " "
F. Wood	7th " "
J. Flint	8th " "
B. Torin	9th " "

A fourth

T. Thomas	10th " "
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30. Notwithstanding the before mentioned supracargoes are all included in one commission and are formed into one council, yet we have directed Messrs Lockwood, R. Wood, Mackett, Devisme, Kinnersley, F. Wood and Thomas to manage and transact the Company's affairs at Canton and Messrs Fitz Hugh, Flint and Torin are to do the same at Limpo. Although thus divided, they are but one council or commission as before observed and are to act accordingly by concerting all necessary and proper measures for the general benefit of the whole concern as circumstances may require and opportunities offer.

31. The ships which are to be now under the management of such of the said supracargoes as shall be at Canton are viz.,

32. The *Walpole* and *Hector* bound directly to Canton with the whole quantity of woollen goods intended this season for that part of China. Messrs Richard Wood and Kinnersley take their passage on the *Hector* and Messrs Devisme and Thomas on the *Walpole* to join as soon as possible Messrs Lockwood, Mackett and Francis Wood who in consequence of our orders were to continue in China the year 1759. The following ships bound first to Fort St. George and then to Canton, viz., the *Essex*, *Valentine*, *Pocock*, *Suffolk*, *Denham* and *Oxford*, also the *Drake* from Bombay in the year 1759, or in case of any accident happening to the *Drake* some other ship in her stead. And whereas it may happen that a ship or ships may arrive at Canton from some of the Company's settlements in the year 1759, for the management whereof no supracargoes have been named or appointed by the Court of Directors, customarily called casual ships, such ship or ships are also to be taken charge of by our supracargoes beforementioned or such of them as shall be at Canton.

33. The ships *Edgecote* and *Chesterfield* proceed directly for Limpo on which Messrs Fitz Hugh and Torin take their passage separately in order to join Mr. Flint at that place, who are to take upon them the management of those ships.

34. The ships *Essex*, *Valentine*, *Suffolk*, *Pocock*, *Denham* and *Oxford* are to proceed as before observed first to Fort St. George to land the soldiers and passengers and deliver the several consignments mentioned in the respective invoices and bills of lading. We have earnestly recommended it to the President and Council of Fort St. George to give them all the assistance therein possible that they may prosecute their voyage for Canton without loss of time as their early arrival there will be of the utmost importance to the Company.

35. The China trade has been gradually improving and in consequence become one of the principle objects of the Company's attention, and although the number of ships destined for that service are very considerable, yet more might be employed. If, therefore, you or any other of our Presidencies should have ships in your hands at any time which for want of goods cannot be despatched home, such ship or ships must be consigned to our supracargoes at Canton with a cargo amounting at least to £20,000 and as much more as can possibly be spared. Such ship or ships will come under the denomination of casual ones as before described and will be accordingly taken care of.

36. Having found it for the interest of the Company to have a residence of some of our supracargoes at Canton the year round we have accordingly continued this method by ordering Messrs Lockwood, Mackett, Kinnersley and Francis Wood to be the resident supracargoes until the year 1760. Their business will be to receive the surplus stock after the investments for the several ships at Canton in the year 1759 have been completed, together with what may be remitted from any of our Presidencies and invest the same agreeable to the directions we shall give them against the arrival of the ships the following season and in general to take care of the Company's affairs there until the appointment of another annual commission or set of supracargoes on the spot

to take the management of any of our ships which it may be necessary or thought proper to send thither from any of our settlements.

37. You will observe by the lists of ships taken up that we send two to Fort Marlborough this season viz., the *Earl of Holderness* and the *Delawar*; if they arrive there safely they may possibly be sufficient to bring home all the pepper on hand. But as you and the President and Council at Fort St. George will have later intelligence from thence than we can have, we must leave it to you and them to take the proper steps to provide tonnage for the surplus pepper if any such there shall be.

38. In order to prevent as much as possible the commander of our ships carrying out or bringing home any persons without license, you will observe we have inserted a new clause in their instructions by which they are directed on their arrival in the Downs outward bound to send us a list of all the passengers on board and in case they shall afterwards receive any others before their departure from England to send us a list of them also and on their arrival at their consigned ports in India they are further directed immediately to send a list of them to the Governor and Council and on their return to England or any port in Europe they are to transmit us an account of such as took their passage from India for Europe. We hope these checks will answer our intentions and in order thereto you must call upon the commanders for their lists of passengers from Europe, also of those from India and carefully transmit them to us for our information.

39. It not being practicable to send you by this early conveyance a list of investment, especially as no ships are arrived from you this season, we can only refer you to our last which is in general to be the plan by which you are to be regulated until we are able to form and transmit to you an exact list accompanied with such observations and directions as shall appear necessary.

40. As saltpetre is greatly wanted here and we shall expect a considerable quantity on every ship to be dispatched from our three Presidencys, as well in aid to their tonnage as to supply the present demand, you must make an early and sufficient provision of that article upon the best terms you can, not only for the ships to be laden home from Bengal but also to supply our Presidencies of Fort St. George and Bombay by all and the first conveyances with what they shall want or may indent for, and if any ship or ships shall be sent to Fort Marlborough to fill up for England, care must be taken that proper quantities are laden on such ship or ships.

41. If Mr. Richard Wilder, who went from hence in the *Elizabeth* to regulate your silk investments, should be in Bengal when this comes to hand, you are to remind him of proceeding to Fort St. George agreeable to his instructions to be there so early in the year 1759 that he may be in time to take passage for Canton in one of the China ships, we having given the necessary orders for that purpose to the President and Council there.

42. We have chosen Mr. Henry Goodwin to be a writer on the Bengal establishment. As he had our permission to proceed to Fort St. George last season on the *Pitt*, he is accordingly to be deemed a writer of that season and take his standing next below James Lawrell and his five years' servitude is to commence accordingly from the time of the arrival of the other writers.

43. We have chosen and appointed 10 more young gentlemen to serve

the Company as writers on the Bengal establishment who are to rank in the order that are named viz., E. Clough, W. Wilkins, E. Gulson, W. Eyton, T. Trist, R. Brown, T. Forbes, W. Drake, J. Graham and J. W. Holwell. The last named person went to India last season with his father. His time of servitude, however, is not to commence the sooner on that account but he is to be on the same footing as the other beforenamed young gentlemen who will take their passage on the Company's ships of this season.

44. The recruits sent in this ship are intended for your settlement and a list of their names is enclosed.

45. On this ship we likewise send the following named gentlemen to serve as cadets in our forces on the Bengal establishment who are to be preferred if they behave well in the order they are here named viz., J. Selbeck, R. Eales, J. Willis, J. Latour and J. Smith.

We are,

Your loving friends,

T. Tullie / J. Manship / C. Cutts / J. Creed / H. Hadley / H. C. Boulton / G. Steevens / H. Savage / J. Raymond / G. Dudley / J. Harrison / L. Sullivan / G. Rooke / R. Drake / W. Barwell / C. Burrow / J. Boyd / T. Rous / J. Browne / J. Dorrien.

London, 1st November 1758.

13

LETTER DATED 23 JANUARY 1759

Reinforcements for Bengal from England—Details of wine—Advice to despatch treasure to China to improve trade—Fixation of exchange rate for Spanish dollar during war—Pay and allowances of chaplains and bricklayers—Procedure for treatment of King's troops.

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. The *Duke of Dorset* in company with the *Earl of Holderness* and *Diligent* sloop sailed from Spithead on the 20th November, by which ship we sent a General Letter under date of the 1st November and by the same conveyance went also a letter from our Secretary advising the arrival of the several ships therein mentioned, duplicates of both which we now send you. As for the times of the arrival of our several ships in England, we refer you to the accompanying lists.

2. As we intend to write very fully upon the affairs of your Presidency by the ships to be dispatched in February, we shall in this letter confine ourselves to such matters only as are necessary for your previous information.

3. His Majesty has been most graciously pleased to order the following named ships to proceed to the East Indies to reinforce the squadron there, and

it is proposed they should leave England about the middle of February when our Coast and Bay ships will proceed with them viz.,

Ships	Guns
<i>Lennox</i>	74
<i>Duke of Aquitain</i>	64
<i>York</i>	60
<i>Falmouth</i>	50

4. Having found it impracticable to raise recruits for our military or likely to do it in any degree adequate to the demands from our several Presidencies for them and in particular for yours where it is so very important to have a considerable land force, His Majesty has been further most graciously pleased to assist the Company with a battalion of his troops consisting of about 1,000 men including officers which it is our intention should be employed in Bengal, as we are in hopes our Presidency of Fort St. George will not be under the necessity of detaining any of them, considering the force they must have upon the arrival of Colonel Draper's Battallion and that what recruits can be raised for the Company's forces will be sent thither by every conveyance that can be spared from other service.

5. The better to accommodate so considerable a body of men as also to find a passage for our own recruits we do in addition to the freighted ships employ two of the Company's viz., the *Royal George* and the *Prince Henry* packet, and we shall be under the necessity likewise of taking up another ship to proceed to India and be disposed of there on a plan similar to those whereon the *Hardwicke* and *Doddington* in the years 1754 and 1755 were entertained.

6. The *Houghton*, one of the Bombay ships, is getting ready to sail with the men-of-war and our Coast and Bay ships in order to proceed to Bengal with a part of the said battallion, which service being performed she is then to go to Bombay according to her first destination.

7. The *Essex*, *Valentine*, *Pocock*, *Suffolk*, *Denham* and *Oxford* designed for China are bound first to Fort St. George each of which ships carry as large a proportion of the said battallion as they can conveniently accommodate to be landed there and re-embarked for Bengal on the first conveyances that offer and can be contrived.

8. The *Calcutta* and *Royal George* carry our own recruits only for Fort St. George. They are then to be employed in bringing you as large a part of the battallion as they can conveniently carry, we mean that part to be landed out of the China ships consisting of about.....men.

9. The remainder of the battallion will, as before observed, be embarked on the men-of-war and our latter ships.

10. You were advised in our last letter that the *Calcutta* was to take in 350 pipes of wine at Madeira. We are now to inform you that as we have thought proper to put more recruits aboard that ship for Fort St. George than we at that time had reason to expect, we have for their better accommodation determined to lessen that quantity of wine and have accordingly given directions to our correspondents to load but 200 pipes unless a further quantity can be conveniently stowed. One moiety of the wine so to be laden will be consigned to the President and Council of Fort St. George and the other moiety

to you without detaining any part thereof at Fort St. George, having thought it expedient to revoke the liberty we gave the Governor and Council for detaining the 50 pipes mentioned in our last letter. As soon as the recruits are landed at Fort St. George, the wine and other consignments intended for that place are delivered, and as many of His Majesty's troops are embarked as may be convenient, the *Calcutta* is then to be ordered for Bengal as soon as possible. What other consignments are on board for your Presidency will appear by the invoice and bill of lading.

11. Our own ship the *Royal George*, having likewise as beforementioned recruits on board for the Company's forces at Fort St. George, as soon therefore as they are delivered together with the consignments for that Presidency, she also is to be dispatched to you with as many of His Majesty's said troops as can possibly be accommodated with a passage.

12. It being our intention to have the *Royal George* employed in such a manner as may be most for the Company's service at any of our settlements and, if it shall appear really necessary and conducive thereto, that she may be detained a season extraordinary in India, you and our other Presidencies, whatsoever she may happen to be destined or employed, are therefore to act according to circumstances and the best of your judgment, observing in general that if it shall be thought proper to return her home the season of her arrival or the following one it be early enough to prevent the loss of her passage.

13. Wherever she arrives or from whatever place she shall be dispatched she must be victualled and put in the best condition in every respect for proceeding from port to port and for her return to England. This must be done at the Company's expense and the proper accounts transmitted to us.

14. Our principal object is that she may be useful in bringing us early intelligence of what is transacting in this critical and dangerous time in the different parts of India. You must make her therefore subservient to this purpose as much as possible not only by sending us a detail of the affairs of your Presidency but by collecting what you can from others.

15. At the same time that she is intended for the purpose of bringing advices, she is of a burthen to carry goods sufficient to earn the expenses of her voyage; a cargo therefore is to be laden on her according to discretion. If the dispatches she is charged with are important and require expedition and consequently may run more hazard, in such case the cargo must not be very valuable. But if on the contrary there is no necessity of her running greater hazards than our other shipping, then it may be to a larger amount; but the whole, as it is said before, must be left to the discretion of the Company's servants at such places where she happens to be, as must her being directed to call at St. Helena or running through without touching be determined by the Governor (in his secret orders) from such place from whence it shall be thought proper to dispatch her.

16. We have informed the President and Council of Fort St. George that the very extraordinary and large draughts, which have been made upon us by you and the Presidency of Bombay as will be more particularly spoke to hereafter, has thrown us into so many difficulties that we are under the almost indispensable necessity of starving the only profitable trade the Company has,

we mean that to China, unless they are in a situation to give a seasonable assistance, an assistance which we shall fully depend upon as derived from you. Instead of the considerable quantity of treasure usually sent on China ships, the *Essex*, *Valentine*, *Pocock*, *Suffolk*, *Denham* and *Oxford* have no more than 10 chests each in full confidence of such assistance. Therefore we have directed our said President and Council to add ten chests of treasure more of £1000 each chest to the China stock of each of the ten ships at least. But if they can encrease it further even so far as that each of the said ships shall carry 30 chests to China, it is earnestly recommended to them as a very signal service to their employers, and sure we are, if you have done your duty, they cannot fail of supplies fully sufficient to comply with our said directions.

17. If contrary to all expectations, the President and Council of Fort St. George should have no treasure to spare on the arrival of the beforementioned six China ships, but have good reasons to believe they shall thereafter have remittances from you, although to [too] late that season to send to China, and that thereby they can load home one or two of them or that they can be loaded home by you from the Bombay side, in such cases they are to detain one or two of the said ships accordingly for such purpose, but then they are to take the treasure out of such detained ships and to reconsign the whole of it to our supracargoes at Canton.

18. Whereas the payment of money into the Company's cash at Canton for bills of exchange to be drawn on the Court of Directors according to the methods practised at our Presidencies may be mutually beneficial to the Company and private persons at this time in particular, we have therefore empowered and directed Messrs T. Lockwood, R. Mackett, F. Kinnersley and F. Wood, our resident supracargoes until the year 1760, to receive any sum or sums of money from any person or persons whatever not exceeding in the whole £50,000 and grant bills of exchange upon the Court of Directors for the same, payable at ninety days' sight, valuing the tale at 6/8. But if that should not be sufficient encouragement to induce persons to pay their money into our cash there in time of war, we have further directed them to grant bills for money so to be paid in at the rate of 5/- sterling for every Spanish dollar, estimating 100 dollars to weigh 88 oz. 13 dwt. This measure would be particularly useful this season on account of our sending out so small a quantity of treasure as before observed and although you may not be apprised in time to make remittances through this channel by the said ships, yet we hope your agents at Madras will do it for you. However, you are to make this measure as public as may be necessary and give all the encouragement thereto you can, that we may be benefited by it the following season.

19. As you have in store an anchor or two of each sort from 23 to 32, both inclusive, we direct that you send as many of them as you can spare to Fort St. George where they are greatly wanted, but from the extraordinary tonnage of military stores both for that Presidency and yours it is impracticable to send those heavy articles or to comply with your indents for lead and iron. Of these latter we have only ordered such quantities as we judge immediately necessary for your own use, and as we may be under the same difficulties next season you are to be careful in putting up any of those articles to sale if it is to be avoided.

20. We have laden on the ships *Valentine*, *Essex* and *Pocock* 180 barrells

of gunpowder, that is to say, 60 on each ship, which being to be taken out at Fort St. George, the President and Council have our directions to forward them to you by the first safe conveyances.

21. In our last letter you were informed we had chosen ten young gentlemen to be writers on the Bengal establishment as therein named and ranked. We are now to acquaint you that several of them take their passage on the *Calcutta*.

22. We have chosen and appointed the Rev. Mr. John Moore and Mr. John Cape to be the Company's chaplains on the Bengal establishments. The first named gentleman takes his passage on the *Calcutta*, the other will proceed upon the *Stormont* or one of the other later ships. We have lent to each of the said gentlemen £100, which is to be repaid out of their growing salaries agreeable to the tenour of their bonds enclosed by the ships on which they take passage.

23. In lieu of the complicated allowances which our chaplains have had from custom out of our cash and from the *Buxey*, and to reduce the same to plain and certain appoin[tment], each of our said chaplains and all others from henceforward who may succeed them are to be paid out of our cash at the usual time of paying the salaries of the Company's covenant servants after the following rates viz.,

Salary as usual after the yearly rate of	...	...	£ 50	0	0
Gratuity as usual	...	...	50	"	"
For house rent if no apartment can be allotted then the usual yearly rate of	...	...	30	"	"
And in lieu of the allowances in the <i>Buxey's</i> accounts for diet, servants, wages and all the various articles which have crept in by custom and conivance, the anual sum only of	...	...	100	"	"
			<hr/>		
			£230	"	"

24. The said yearly sum of £230 sterling is to be paid each of our chaplains at the usual time of payment and you are hereby positively ordered to make them no other allowances as from the Company in any shape or on any pretence whatever. Both Mr. More and Mr. Cape have had this matter very clearly explained to them previous to their being chosen, which it is right to mention that you may be apprised of its being a mutual agreement.

25. Mr. Carter having signified to us by a letter from Fort St. George dated the 10 March last that you being in want of a clergyman had prevailed on the Rev. Henry Butler to stay in Bengal and requesting we will send another to Fort Marlborough in his room (which by the way is not taken notice of in any letter of yours to us), you are to acquaint Mr. Butler that having before the receipt of Mr. Carter's letter filled up both the vacant chaplainships in Bengal, we cannot comply with the request made on his behalf and that he is, therefore, accordingly to his original appointment to proceed by the first convenient opportunity to Fort Marlborough.

26. Besides the persons entertained to serve the Company as cadets in the Company's forces upon the Bengal establishment mentioned in our letter by the *Duke of Dorset* and who took their passage on that ship, we have entertained

the following viz., E. Evans, J. Price, T. McLaren, F. S. Ward, J. McKellan, R. March, T. Aston, G. Scott and W. Look who are to be preferred, if they behave well, in the order they are named, next after those by the *Duke of Dorset*. Evans, Price, and Mackellan proceed on the *Calcutta* and R. March and W. Cook on the *Royal George*, who are to be forwarded to you by the President and Council of Fort St. George either by those ships or as they arrive if any other conveyances offer; the rest will take their passage on the latter ships.

27. Mr. Brohier having represented to us by his letter under date of the 10 January the great want of able brick-layers for the better carrying on the works at Fort William, we have accordingly entertained Thos. Braiding and J. Daw as master bricklayers on the Bengal establishment at the salary of 90 pounds sterling a year each, to commence on their arrival, to be under the immediate direction of the Engineer only, also Charles Bonwick apprentice to Thomas Braiding for the remaining term of his apprenticeship (which will expire the 21st March 1761) at the yearly salary of £60 to be paid to his said master, to commence likewise on his arrival in Bengal, and at the expiration of his said apprenticeship to be employed at such salary to be paid to himself as you shall think he deserves, if he chooses to remain in India. These three bricklayers take passage on the *Royal George* and are to be sent you by our orders to the Governor and Council of Fort St. George either by the said ship or the first conveyance that offers.

28. Robert Boulton, who went to Bengal as a cadet per ship *Walpole*, having as we are well informed behaved in a very extraordinary manner, we direct he be sent to England by the first ship dispatched from your settlement as one of the charterparty passengers.

29. You were advised last season that His Majesty had been pleased to send a battallion of foot to the East Indies under the command of Lieut. Colonel Draper and as that battallion was more immediately intended for the service of the Company at our Presidency of Fort St. George we presume upon its being at that place.

30. His Majesty, as observed in the former part of this letter, has been further most graciously pleased to assist the Company with another battallion of his troops to proceed to the East Indies in the ships of this season, and as our Presidency of Fort William appears from your several letters to be in a great want of a military force, this last battallion is therefore destined for the service of the Company in Bengal.

31. The last named battallion consists of about 1,000 men officers included formed into nine companys under the command of Lieut. Colonel Eyre Cootc and the Majors W. Gordon and R. Gordon.

32. As it is intended by His Majesty the battallions should serve the Company in the most effectual manner, we are well assured that the commanding officers will have instructions and directions to cooperate with you in every measure tending to the interest of the Company, and as to those gentlemen themselves, we make no doubt but they will avoid all altercations and embrace every opportunity of pursuing their instructions with cheerfulness and alacrity for the good of the service in general, more particularly as we have agreed to put the battallion upon the same footing exactly with respect to accomodation,

in India and are to be in consideration of all expences whatsoever excepting *batta* in the field.

39. For the better encouragement of the officers and soldiers of this battallion we have determined to put them on the same footing with respect to pay as the Company's own forces. You are therefore hereby directed to pay them out of our cash the difference between His Majesty's and the Company's pay in the following manner, viz.,

					s	d	
To the Captain of each company	...	...	...	...	2	—	a day
" Lieutenants	"	...	...	...	1	—	"
" Ensign	"	...	...	...	1	—	"
" Sergeants each	"	...	...	...	—	2	"
" Corporals	"	...	...	...	—	2	"
" Drummers	"	...	...	...	—	2	"
" Private men	"	...	...	...	—	2	"

40. You are also to pay the following persons the allowances set against their names as follows, viz.,

					s	d	
To the Chaplain of each battallion	...	...	...	...	1	—	a day
" Surgeon	"	...	...	...	1	—	"
" Adjutant	"	...	...	...	1	—	"
" Quarter Master of each battallion	...	...	...	...	1	—	"
" Surgeon's Mates of each battallion	...	...	...	...	—	10	"

41. It is our meaning that the King's troops should not only be equal in pay to the Company's but that they should also be upon the same footing as to allowances in the field.

42. With respect to the garrison it was represented to us when Colonel Draper's Battallion went to Fort St. George that His Majesty always allows his troops here fire and candle. If this is allowed our own troops at that Presidency, that battallion was to be allowed it, and whatever the practice is in this respect there it must be a rule for you to proceed by and you are to accommodate them in the best manner you can with barracks or other convenient places to lodge in when they are not in the field.

43. We acquainted the President and Council at Fort St. George that when Colonel Draper's Battallion are in the field the officers and men are to have exactly the same allowances as the Company's troops whatever they are, but as that allowance called *batta* hath been carried to a very great degree of profusion there, we positively directed the President and Council to take a review of all their late appointments of it and to reduce it as much as possible so that it might be settled upon a reasonable and equitable footing. This Colonel Draper was apprized of, and we have reason from his very candid behaviour to flatter ourselves he would give all the assistance in his power to facilitate so necessary a measure. Whatever *batta* so adjusting was to be paid the Company's forces was to be allowed and paid equally to His Majesty's and this is to be the rule you are to go by with respect to the King's forces in Bengal, in order to which we shall give directions to the President and Council of Fort St. George to transmit you exact accounts of such allowances for your guidance

both with respect to our own and the King's forces, for at present we are entirely at a loss to know upon what footing our own troops are in Bengal as to any allowance above the stated pay.

44. You are to observe both with respect to pay and *batta* that no allowance be made to any officer or officers of whatever rank or any other person or persons whatsoever either in our own or the King's forces in a double capacity, excepting the Adjutant and Quarter Master and them only, who on account of their extraordinary expenses are to be paid in a double capacity, that is as lieutenant and Adjutant and lieutenant and Quarter Master.

45. We have been informed that when the King's troops take the field here they are allowed at the public expense forrage, wood and straw. Whether this is the case with the Company's troops on the coast of Choromandel we are not apprised and it may be for aught we know included in that allowance called *batta*. But of this you will also receive the necessary information from our said President and Council by which you are to guide yourselves.

46. An application has been made to us by one of the captains of Colonel Adlerson's regiment for payment of 27/8 pagodas per month which he says was an allowance made at Fort St. George to the other captains of that regiment as an equivalent to them for the advantages the captains of our own troops have in clothing their companys. It is necessary, therefore, to acquaint you that it never was our meaning to have such an allowance made nor were the President and Council of Fort St. George in any shape warranted to do it and the reason we take notice of it here is that no such kind of allowance be made to His Majesty's officers in Bengal.

47. Should the King's forces at any time be in want of stores and necessaries on His Majesty's account, you are to advance to the commanding officer or officers such sums of money as they may desire you to advance for those purposes, for which you are to take bills of exchange to be drawn on such commanding officer or officers for the amount of the sum so advanced at the rate of six shillings and six pence per weighty dollar upon the proper public officers in England payable to us at 30 days' sight, taking four bills of the same tenour and date and transmit them to us by different conveyances.

48. And you are hereby positively directed to adjust all accounts any ways relative to the King's troops with the proper officers and procure bills as before mentioned for what shall appear due to the Company on the balance of such accounts or at least let them be so authentically certified that we may not be put to the trouble of litigating such accounts in England.

We are,

Your loving friends,

L. Sullivan / C. Burrow / N. Newnham / H. Plant / J. Creed / J. Manship / J. Boyd / J. Raymond / T. Phipps / C. Cutts / T. Rons / H. Savage / G. Dudley / G. Rooke / J. Dorrien / P. Browne / G. Steevens / J. Harrison / T. Tullie / F. Pigou / H. C. Boulton.

London, 23 January 1759.

LETTER DATED 23 MARCH 1759

Shipping news—Disapproval of transfer of French officers from Chandernagore to Pondicherry—Clandestine trade in copper, lead and iron—Approval of despatch of copper to Patna—Procedure for dispatch of saltpetre to England—Condemnation of Pearkes' association with saltpetre contract—Advance of money to Portuguese agents—Advantages of employing King's troops—Protection to commerce and colonies—Company's servants prohibited from holding landed properties—Abuse of dastacks—Reprimand for disposal of booty—Emphasis on development of trade—Accounts of Company's servants.

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. We have already writ to you this season two letters. The first of them was dated the 1st November 1758 and went in triplicate by the *Duke of Dorset*, *Royal George* and *Calcutta*. The other, under date of the 23rd January following, was also sent in triplicate by the *Calcutta*, *Royal George* and *Essex*, and you will now receive copys of both by the *Ajax*, *Stormont* and *Houghton*.

2. The several letters we received from you in the course of last season were by the *Prince Henry* packet and the ships *Marlbrough*, *Warwicke* and *Elizabeth* under dates of the 12th and 27th of September 1757, the 10th, 13th and 23rd January, and 28th February 1758. By those conveyances were likewise received letters from your Select Committee to the Secret Committee of the 23rd January and of the 2nd March 1758; also letters from Coll. Clive of the 23rd of December 1757 and the 18th Feb. following and a letter from Mr. Brohier to the said Committee dated the 23rd of January.

3. We shall now proceed under the usual heads to give you such further informations and directions in addition to those in our last General Letters as appear necessary and make some observations upon the letters received as well as those addressed to our Secret Committee agreeable to the intimation in our letter of the 11th November last as to us the Court of Directors.

First, of shipping

4. Our Secretary by our direction in a short letter dated the 10th November by the *Duke of Dorset* gave you a general account of the arrival of some and the hering [sic] of others of our returning ships. We are now more particularly to inform you that His Majesty's ship the *Colchester* which left St. Helena on the 16th July with the following ships under her convoy, viz., the *Marlbrough*, *Warwicke*, *Elizabeth*, *Norfolk*, *Princess Augusta*, *Falmouth*, *Caernarvon*, *Royal Duke*, *Onslow*, *Sandwich* and *Triton* after a very tedious passage and met with a hard gale of wind on the 8th October which separated some of them from the convoy. However, all except the *Caernarvon* and *Falmouth* happily got safe to Cork and Kinsale in Ireland on the 25th of the same month.

5. The *Caernarvon* unluckily fell in with a French squadron returning

from Quebec and was taken but we have the pleasure of informing you that she was soon after retaken by the *Somerset*, one of the ships belonging to Admiral Boscawen's squadron which was also on its return from Louisburgh, and was carried to Milford Haven.

6. The *Falmouth* in a sickly distressed condition arrived at Glenock near Glasgow in Scotland on the 6th November.

7. Of the ships *Prince Edward*, *Lord Anson* and *York* which sailed from St. Helena on the 20th August the two first named got safe to Limerick in the river Shannon in Ireland on the 2nd November but the *York* was unfortunately stranded and wrecked near the mouth of that river. The people were all saved but the cargo except a few bales of Surat goods and some others of little value is entirely lost.

8. It has been extremely fortunate for the Company that the arrival of their ships at the several before-mentioned places should be so very late in the season, and the more so for their long detention there for convoy and other incidents, as the time of their arrival in England must from their respective situations be different. We refer you therefore to the accompanying lists for all information in this particular.

9. There are so many difficulties occur to prevent our ships coming to their moorings in the river Thames from Ireland, Scotland or wherever else they go to after they leave St. Helena and in consequence of our orders as they now stand the book packets are to be kept on the board until they get to their said moorings, by which means we are deprived of making use in time of your diaries, accounts and many material books proper to be inspected before the dispatch of our shipping for India, which from what is before mentioned you may observe is the case this year in a very particular manner. To remedy therefore this great inconvenience you must in future, so long as the war continues, give positive orders to every commander you dispatch to send us the book packets as well as all others he is entrusted with from the first port he arrives at, whether in England, Scotland or Ireland, with the care and precautions mentioned in our instructions to them.

10. The ships *Essex*, *Valentine*, *Pocock*, *Susfolk*, *Denham*, and *Oxford* bound first to Fort St. George and then to China, the *Calcutta* for the island of Madeira and then to Fort St. George and Bengal, the *Royal George* for Fort St. George, also the four direct ships for Canton and Limpao, *Hector*, *Walpole*, *Edgecote* and *Chesterfield*, after a tedious detention by contrary winds, left Spithead on the 16th February.

11. You were informed in our last letter that three companys of the battallion of His Majesty's troops were embarked on the six first named ships which were to be landed at Fort St. George and from thence forwarded to you by the first conveyances that offered.

12. The remainder of the battallion as was also intimated in the said letter now proceeds on His Majesty's squadron and our ships the *Ajax*, *Stormont*, and *Houghton* the commanders of which three last are under orders to proceed directly for Bengal and we apprehend also that the men-of-war will do the same that the troops may be landed without difficulty or loss of time. As soon as you hear of the arrival of all or any of the said ships you must take the necessary measures for disembarking the troops as soon and as conveniently

as possible, especially those from the men-of-war, that they may not be detained or be under the necessity of proceeding further up the river than Admiral Cornish thinks fit.

13. In our letter of the 23rd January you were acquainted that the surgeons of each of our ships except that on which the surgeon of the battallion proceeds were to be allowed the usual headmoney for taking care of the soldiers. Having since directed the surgeon of the *Houghton*, on which the battallion surgeon proceeds, likewise to take care of the soldiers on board that ship he is also to be paid the same headmoney as the others.

14. With these ships we also send you the *Prince Henry* packet on which are embarked some recruits for our own troops on the Bengal establishment with military stores and other consignments agreeable to her invoice and bill of lading.

15. With respect to the returning home the several ships we gave the same general directions for your conduct in our letter of the first of November, to which we have only to add that it is possible our settlements on the West Coast may be able to afford some assistance towards loading home a ship more than the *Earl of Holderness* and *Delawar*, but of this you will be best judges by the intelligence you and the Presidency of Fort St. George shall receive from thence. We throw it out rather as a hint to be made use of according to circumstances than as a direction and shall accordingly depend upon your making the proper use of it.

16. You have been already informed that the *Houghton* was originally intended to proceed directly for Bombay but that in order to accomodate part of the battallion with a passage we were under the necessity of altering that destination and ordering her to proceed first to Bengal. As soon, therefore, as the troops are landed and the cargo consigned to you is delivered, you are to forward her to the President and Council at Bombay either with a proper cargo either on the Company's account or on freight or partly one and the other as shall appear to be most advantageous to us, taking care to dispatch her in time for being returned home from that side the same season she arrives in India and here we must acquaint you that we shall certainly depend upon your sending by the *Houghton* to Bombay as considerable a quantity of saltpetre as she can well carry in order to alleviate the great expense you are continually putting us to by freighting that article on country ships.

17. As to the *Prince Henry* packet she may be either returned to us immediately from either one or other of our settlements, kept in India for a time or sold for account of the Company any of which methods shall appear to be best but we would rather have her employed in the service of the West Coast from yours or Fort St. George Presidency unless it may be necessary to dispatch her to us without any particuar advice. As this vessal comes first to Bengal you must upon considering all circumstances determine upon what may be done with her and if you are of opinion it may be more to our advantage to send her to either of our other Presidencys for those purposes you are to do so taking care to send copy of these our directions along with her for our guidance together with the inventory contract with the crew and other necessary papers.

18. The *Prince Henry* during her being employed must be situated,

fitted, repaired and be put in a proper condition at all times for performing the services she shall be employed in. This must be done at the Company's expense and the proper accounts transmitted to us, as likewise from one settlement to another when and as often as it may be necessary for the information of our servants at such other settlements.

19. In order to prevent a needless expense of powder on board the ships in the Company's service we have made some new regulations by which the commanders are allowed to make no other salutes with guns than those therein mentioned. Upon all other occasions they are to salute with cheers according to their own discretion and the present rules of the Navy. We now transmit for your information a printed copy of the said regulations.

20. In adjusting the accounts of damage and short delivery with the commanders of our Europe ships, we observe you have not strictly regarded the stipulations in the charterparty for valuing the rupee at the current exchange allowed the Company's covenant servants. You must in future carefully observe the same and settle such accounts agreeable to the rules therein mentioned.

21. In settling accounts with the owners of the ship *Denham* they demanded Arcot rupees 197.5 for passage of Dr. Fletcher from Bengal to the Negrais, for diet of two people who were sent on board at the Negrais as prisoners and for wood, water etc., for 20 invalid passengers from that place to Bengal, which we refused to allow as having no account of these transactions. Captain Meard informs us that he delivered his bill to you and that you offered him one hundred Arcot rupees which he would not accept and Mr. Cooke told him this affair ought to have been adjusted at Fort St. George, the Negrais being subordinate to that settlement. As he was despatched directly from your place to England you should have given us what information you could whether the demand was reasonable that the owners might have had justice done them, but as no allowance has been made and they still persist in their claim you must give us the best information that can be done at this distance of time that they may be allowed what is justly due to them in a future account.

22. We observe you gave a gratuity of 50 rupees a head to the seamen of the *Marlbrough* for their good behaviour when employed at Dum Dummer. We are never backward in gratifying our people when they behave well but you are to be very cautious in your bounties because precedents are not easily got over. Instead of giving the money abroad, the usual method has been to promise sailors in our name one, two or more months' pay as their services merited. This would not only secure relief to their families at home but be a tie upon their conduct during the voyage and is a practise we recommend on any future occasion.

23. Your sending away the late Directors, officers—civil and military—and inhabitants of Chandernagore to Pondicherry was a most injudicious step and the very reasons assigned make strong against you, for if a French squadron was to have come against Calcutta how soon in such case would there [these] persons have returned in aid. Besides, respecting Madras how impolitic was it to strengthen the enemy on that coast. Those people were your prisoners, consequently on an attack would have been confined in such manner that you might be in no danger from them and if the settlement had been taken it would

have been of little consequence to us whether they were released there or brought from Pondicherry. But what deserves particular notice is the expense you put us to upon this account which appears extravagant and unreasonable. 45,000 Arcot rupees to carry a few men from Bengal to Pondicherry (for numbers staid [sic] behind) and 45,000 current rupees to be paid if the French seized or detained the vessel, which really proved to be the case, is such an uncommon sort of contract that we direct that you will transmit to us the names of the proprietors of this ship *Restitution* and we do expect that in all such lucrative transactions the parties appear before the Board, the bargain be there publicly discussed and the whole entered on consultation for our observance or rather in all such cases public notice should be given that you are ready to receive sealed proposals and without bias the lowest offer to be accepted. This is our method of doing business for the Company in material affairs and you will do well to act with the same care and circumspection.

24. Your sending to us the *Diligent* schooner with the important news of the revolution in Bengal meets with our entire approbation and you may be assured of always having it by giving us material information by every channel in your power.

25. The *Revenge*, you say, being ordered by Admiral Pocock to proceed to Bombay, you had applied to him for directions to the commander to take in some saltpetre for the use of that Presidency and you accordingly loaded on her 800 bags. If the *Revenge* was discharged from His Majesty's service she ought to have fallen immediately under your direction and have been properly loaded for our account to Bombay and instead of 800 she ought to have carried 2000 bags of saltpetre, for it is very hard that we should be paying a high freight for this article and our own ships go empty or filled by the commanders. We shall give the necessary orders to Bombay upon this head that you may have it in your power to pay a due regard to our interest.

26. It gives us much concern to observe that the *Ilchester* and *Worcester* should lie by the walls when at the same time you inform us they might have been employed so as to have saved the heavy charge of their demurrage. The reason you give for this detention is the expectation of an attack from the enemy and that you might therefore have the assistance of the said ships and their crews in case of such an event. If this was really a case of necessity and appeared so to you on the maturest deliberation we cannot help submitting to it but at the same time we must remind you of our frequent directions for despatching home or employing our ships in such a manner as may prevent or alleviate as much as possible that heavy and generally unprofitable expense of demurrage and we expect you will constantly make this one of the principal objects of your attention and care.

27. In your letter of the 28th February you say Mr. Ralph Leychester acquainted you he had been informed that a quantity of copper, lead and iron had been clandestinely landed from on board the *Warwick*, *Grantham* and *Elizabeth* and that he desired your orders to trace out the quantities and who the purchasers were, that by making a proper example of them others might be deterred from doing the like. You add that upon this you had revised some orders to prevent illicit trade but not the least notice is taken at your endeavours at a discovery either of the person to whom the said copper, lead and iron belonged or of the purchasers. Whether any proceedings on this affair

stand on your consultations we know not as they reach no further than the 26th December. If when they come it shall appear nothing further has been done tending to such discovery, we shall have reason highly to resent your conduct, and here it is proper to acquaint you that we shall expect in future the strictest regard to all our former orders for the discovery of illicit trade and seizing on the Company's account all such as shall be found, and giving us future and regular accounts of all your proceedings thereon. Let Mr. Leychester be acquainted that his conduct on this occasion is highly approved by us and that as he has thus distinguished himself to be a very worthy and deserving servant he may depend upon our favor.

28. To the foregoing paragraph we think it highly necessary to add that we call in particular upon the Import and Sub-Import Warehousekeepers, Mr. Becher and Mr. Culling Smith, to give us a full account of their conduct in this affair as it was their immediate duty, and if we find they prevaricate and endeavour to conceal any persons concerned or material circumstances from our knowledge, they may depend upon being dismissed the Company's service.

Secondly, of goods from Europe or from one part of India to another

29. In our two last letters you have a general account of our export this season to the several parts of India and China. Upon writing the first we had but little prospect of either raising recruits in a sufficient number for the Company's own forces or being assisted by the Government with the battallion now going to Bengal, and consequently there would have been room enough in our shipping to have taken in the whole of the export we intended for your Presidency, but as the accomodating the troops with convenient room so as to prevent death and sickness in their passage is an object of the greatest importance, at this time in particular, we have been under the necessity of detaining for some other conveyances many of the goods we intended to have sent you, especially bulkey articles. We shall not here particularise them because you may on comparing the several invoices with our said letters be easily informed how far we have fallen short of our first intentions; to them therefore you are referred.

30. For the reasons beforementioned and the late arrival of our ships we have been prevented complying this season with your indent for woollen goods but we hope the ensuing year we shall fully make good the present deficiency. We must here add that it gives us pleasure to observe you are attentive to promote this important branch of our trade as also in endeavouring to encrease the vend of copper and other staple commodities by sending them to Patna, Cuttack and other places.

31. Our settlement of Fort Marlborough, depending upon Madras alone for such articles as they cannot subsist without, has either through accident or neglect been brought into the utmost distress. To prevent such evils in future we last year ordered our Presidency of Bombay to send thither a vessel annually with salt and other articles and we now direct that you in like manner procure and keep one or two proper vessels constantly in that tract supplying that settlement with rice and opium annually and such other articles as the Deputy Governor and Council shall regularly indent for and this intercourse is to be kept up between you and our said servants directly free of all cloggs

and difficulties with Madrass where this vessel or vessels are not to touch unless you or our servants on the West Coast find it any time necessary or convenient. The vessels on their arrival at Fort Marlborough are to be under the orders of the Deputy Governor and Council who will be directed if there are returns proper to load them back for our account.

Thirdly, of investment

32. We now transmit to you a list of the investment to be made in Bengal the ensuing season. The late arrival of our shipping unavoidably renders it incomplete, as thereby we are deprived of making many remarks which necessarily occur upon an inspection of and sale of the goods and which must therefore be deferred to another opportunity. However, the general directions are pretty complete and are to be carefully complied with.

33. The necessity of our other Presidencies being always in possession of a considerable quantity of saltpetre to enable them with more ease to load home the several ships on their hands is so apparent that we need only to remind you of losing no opportunities of continuing your care to supply them in the most effectual manner.

34. With respect to the quantities of saltpetre to be laden on each ship for Europe we have already this season given some general directions to which we refer and indeed under the present circumstances none but general directions can be given as it is impossible for us to foresee what proportions of goods you and our other Presidencies may be able to provide for the despatch of our shipping in general.

35. In the 34th paragraph of your letter of the 10 of January you inform us of your agreement with Omichund for 58,000 maunds of saltpetre at the rate of six Arcot rupees the factory maund and in the 61st paragraph of the same letter you deny Mr. Pearkes had contracted at Patna for 51,000 maunds at Rs. 2. 14 As. *sicca* per factory maund. This is a very striking circumstance, especially when it is considered that by that happy revolution you had it in your power to command the market and to purchase all or any quantities of saltpetre wanted without the intervention of the black people, but your giving such a great price to Omichund and at the same time (we are informed) checking Mr. Pearkes in his purchases seems to be so very extraordinary and we are afraid a sinister affair very materially affecting your characters as well as the Company's interest, that we do positively direct that you do fully explain the whole to us by the first opportunity.

36. In your letter of the 28 February you intimate that the indifference of the investment in respect to former years and its dearthness take their rise from the late troubles. There is certainly great weight in what you say and we shall make all due allowances thereon, but at the same time we cannot help observing that upon the late happy revolution you had such a flow of money that you might have commanded the market and we think in consequence thereof have made an earlier and as well as a better investment, and indeed we are induced to think in this manner if what we have heard with respect to the Portuguese ship *Neustra Senhora dos Prazeres* is true, which is that a very valuable cargo of fine goods was provided for her at Calcutta and that the money with which it was purchased was lent to the Portuguese agents or supracargoes by our

own people. The goods of which this cargo was composed might have been brought up for the Company's use and would have been a most acceptable piece of service. This if true was doing the highest injustice to your employers and we direct that you make a strict enquiry into this and acquaint us with all the circumstances together with the names of such persons whether in our service or under our protection who appear to be in any respect concerned therein.

37. In your said letter you say that having the early months to begin your purchases for the ensuing year and a sufficiency of money to supply the calls of the *gomastahs* and the subordinate settlements, there is the greatest reason to flatter yourselves with making a very satisfactory investment for the next ships. We most earnestly hope you have effectually succeeded in your endeavours, for there never was a time in which a large return of goods from Bengal was more wanted than now to enable us by their produce to carry on in a proper manner the circulation of our trade which has been of late greatly obstructed by many heavy difficulties, expenses and disappointments.

38. We gave you such full directions last year for the manner of conducting the Company's affairs in general and particularly with respect to that important one the investment that, instead of making observations upon your letters now before us containing a detail of your transactions gradually arising from confusion into some order and method, we shall refer you to our said directions which are as nearly as possible to be observed and complied with, especially for carrying on the business at the subordinates on the frugal plans therein laid down.

39. For the reasons given in the 61st paragraph of your letter of the 10th January we flatter ourselves that with prudence and economy a factory at Patna may prove very beneficial to us and do therefore acquiesce with your resettlement there. For the present, however, you are still to conform to the orders we gave in our letters last year of the 3rd March as to the frugality to be observed and to represent to us in the most explicit manner the state of affairs at that place together with your opinion thereupon. When we have the whole with your remarks before us we shall send you our determination as to the continuing or otherwise at that settlement.

*Fourthly, of the trade of India and transactions relative to the French,
the country Government etc.*

40. You were acquainted in our letter of the 1st November that eleven ships sailed from France for the East Indies and that part of them had called at the Brazils in May last. We have since been informed by a letter dated at Rio Janeiro the 30th June following that the said fleet consisted of twelve ships viz.,

Three men-of-war from 60 to 70 guns each

Six Company's ships laden with goods for their islands and for China carrying from 18 to 30 guns each.

Also two others, the names unknown, supposed also to belong to the Company, the whole under the command of Mr. Delagulle, Chef d'escadre. The following ten ships called at Rio Janeiro and Isla Grande in a sickly condition viz., men-of-war—*Le Mentor*, the Commodore [*sic*] *L'Active*, *Le Lustre* ;

Company's ships—*Le Comte d'Argenson*, *Le Bourbon*, *Neptune*, *L'Elephant*, *La Fortune*, *La Balaine*, *La Fidelle*. The three last named were sailed before the date of the said letter but the other seven were then there.

41. We are not informed whether the said ships had any land forces on board; but from the silence of the beforementioned letter in this particular we are induced to hope they had not any considerable number, at least not enough to give uneasy apprehensions, if our settlements have been so happy with the assistance of His Majesty's land and sea forces to make a good stand against those under the command of Mr. Lally.

42. We are ignorant of the ships and forces the French design for India this season, but we flatter ourselves from the present low condition of that nation that neither can be considerable. However you must be constantly on your guard that you may be as ready in all events as circumstances can possibly admit of.

43. If the beforementioned force under Mr. Lally has made no impression of consequence in Bengal and the troops His Majesty has been most graciously pleased to grant the Company arrive in safety, we have strength sufficient to baffle any future effort and effectually protect our settlements and commerce.

44. It gives us great pleasure to observe by your latest advices that the Nabob's troubles were at an end and that there was a seeming good prospect of a settled tranquility in the province. The best understanding with the Nabob on your parts is so essentially necessary at all times that we shall depend upon your cultivating and preserving it by every method that prudence can suggest and is consistent with the real and true interest of the Company. It is with equal satisfaction we take notice likewise that the Nabob has, in order the better to secure the payment of the several sums of money stipulated in the treaty with him, agreed to the mortgage of the revenues of several countries to be paid to you monthly as they arise and we flatter ourselves that the whole debt will by these means be soon fully discharged, but should any interceptions arise from unforeseen events we must depend upon your utmost care to remove all difficulties and secure and expedite the payments, as the Company were never in a situation to make such a source [course?] in the highest degree necessary as at this time.

45. Our having the [grant] of a mint at Calcutta is a considerable acquisition [which] with good management [cannot] fail of being highly adva[n]tageous to the Company and we [.....] with satisfaction your [.....] circumspection in set[tl]ing it. We must at the [same time] [.....] you that it appears to [.....] plan is in some re[.....]. The rules and re[gulations] laid down in our [.....] season must be [.....] without deviation [.....] are satisfied [.....] improper. [.....] you are at [.....] assigning to us the reasons which induce you to deviate from any part of our plan.

46. You must take the utmost care to keep up the reputation of the mint by causing the standard weights and fineness of the coins to be most strictly observed. We have received in your packets by the *Marlborough* and *Elizabeth* some Calcutta *sicca* and *nohiers*, upon which you will now receive in a separate paper some remarks made by our Accountant and to which therefore you are referred.

47. Although they are unavoidably imperfect as you have not informed us or mentioned anywhere that we can find what the [sta]ndard for them should be, [you] must therefore send us [at] the first opportunity the [latest] account of the standard [of] your coins with respect to weight and fineness, particularly the *sicca* rupees and gold *mohurs*, which you are to transmit us from time to time with ou[.....] assays, we may know in what manner you keep up to the standard and consequently the reputation of the mint.

48. We are glad to find Mr. Frankland employed in surveying the large [districts] granted us by the Government. His indefatigable endeavours [to] serve the Company we have frequently experienced and as a valuable servant he [claims] our esteem. We please ourselves this survey will [.....] to us correct and so distinct [.....] we may be enabled to give [.....] and explicit directions for the improvements of such [.....] and we hope lucrative acquisition[s]. Be careful that able and worthy men are appointed to trusts [of] such great importance, the management thereof must not center in one person. It is of too extensive a nature and might run you into equal difficulties and confusion, with that complicated branch now abolished, the Zemindary. Above all be attentive in fixing proper checks though it may not be in the power of any to wrong us.

49. We do not [*sic*] approve of our flags being hoisted at Cuttack provided it subjects us to no embroils with country powers, but we will have no house or factory built there at our expense. But if this, in our opinions, should appear necessary, explain your motives for and the utility of such settlement in the most explicite manner when we will give you our directions thereon.

50. You did very right in forbidding Europeans holding the farms of any lands, towns or villages within the Company's boundaries, nor do we much approve of it within our own jurisdiction. However, as it may sometimes possibly prove of public advantage to have moneyed men not in our service to be competitors, we do not lay you under restrictions to such persons, but we absolutely and positively forbid covenant servants holding any lands, towns or villages directly or indirectly within or without our jurisdiction or be interested in any contracts with the Company, for such shall assuredly forfeit our services. Our reasons for this restraint must be so obvious that an explanation must be unnecessary. We are further to remark that the late troubles at Tellicherry which proved almost fatal to that settlement took rise from a dispute with our linguist and the prince of that country relative to lands he, the linguist, held at Mount Dilly. Therefore should any of the natives or inhabitants who hold posts in Calcutta or under our protection possess territories without our limits, they are in all difficulties which may arise with respect to such property to settle them as Indians, but under no sanction as subjects to the Company, for it is our positive direction that the affairs of such persons shall not embarrass or involve ours.

51. The declaration you made to the Government that you would protect no goods in boats carrying English co[lours] which had not *dusticks* and pe[r]mits for] the same was right and just, but you should have gone further. The persons under our protection having a right to English colours and abusing that privilege by smuggling should have their goods forfeited to the Company

as an equitable recompense for the danger their dishonest actions bring us into by embroils with the Government. Those again who have no right to our colours and carry on such illicit practices should also be seized by you and delivered up to the Government. Concerning the abuse of *dusticks* and the means for preventing the same we have in our former letters said so much that a repetition becomes needless and we have only to add that we shall expect you will most heartily exert yourselves to put a stop to this shameful practice.

52. The details of your transactions with respect to advancing out of our cash to the navy and army the Nabob's donation to them as contained in the several paragraphs under the head in your letter of the 10th January 1758 falls more naturally under the head of accounts. We, therefore, refer you to that part of our letter for our sentiments upon your conduct in these transactions.

53. You not having in your letters taken the least notice of your proceedings with respect to the produce of the plunder and booty taken from the late Nabob and from the French, we have had recourse to your consultations and we are sorry to say with very little satisfaction. We, therefore, find that on the 14 January 1757, Messrs Drake and Watts appointed the Company's agents for taking charge of reprisals of Moors [and their] effects which might, in consequence of the agreement made between the Governor and Council of Fort St. George and the gentlemen of the navy, be deposited for His Majesty's pleasure, but it does not appear that those gentlemen took any one step in this affair, at least none stand on your consultations or else where that we can find. It is true that in the course of them for the year 1757, it appears that at different times you purchased of the agents for the captors (gentlemen of the navy) goods, ammunition and stores on our account for a considerable amount, as well what were taken from the Moors as the French, and upon the 20th of December the agents for the capture of Hugley pay into your treasure Rs. 29,000, account the half of the reprisals agreed to be deposited, but how or in what manner this sum arises we are entirely at a loss and it is evident you gave very little if any attention to this affair. Messrs Doidge and Pye, two of the said agents, are lately arrived in England, and from the very small deposit made as before mentioned we cannot but suppose the Company is entitled to a larger sum, but for want of information we shall be greatly at a loss in making the necessary applications. Upon the whole you have been extremely negligent in this affair, and although we are afraid it may be too late, we do direct that you send us by the first opportunity a statement of the particulars and amount of all the plunder and booty taken both from the Moors and French, the manner it was disposed of and the proportions divided by the captors and what was deposited with you. In fine, we expect a [.....], explicit and satisfactory accou[nt] of all your transactions on this head.

54. The same inattention is evident also with respect to the prize called *L'Indien* taken by Commodore James in the *Revenge* upon the Malabar Coast, for it stands upon your consultations of the 8th August 1757 that the cargo having been disposed of in Bengal and the Company having as you were advised a claim to part of the said prize as may belong to the Company by custom and that no dividend be made till that is settled. So far you did right but to our very great disappointment not one step more was taken, at least nothing more

appears either in your letters or consultations. [This] affair likewise must be fully and clearly represented and due attention and obedience paid to what we writ last year upon this affair.

Fifthly, of fortifications, buildings and revenues

55. We esteem it a fortunate incident that we have given you our sentiments so fully by the last year's ships on the subject of fortifying your subordinates because we conceive you would not presume to go on with your extensive scheme of fortifying Cossimbuzar, and we cannot avoid remarking that you seem so thoroughly possessed with military ideas as to forget your employers are merchants and trade their principal object, and were we to adopt your several plans for fortifying, half our capital would be buried in stone walls. But your reasons for erecting a fort at Cossimbuzar by no means coincide with our opinion. You say "that a fortified place near the capital of the soubahship would be of use in preserving our influence at the *darbar* and checking any designs that the Government might in future conceive against us". But is this a prudent or a practicable scheme to erect such a fortress and have such a garrison contiguous to the Nabob's residence, as to keep them constantly in awe of us? We say, in the first place, it would be a most impolitic step and would render you odious and in the next it is an impossibility to suppose you could defend yourself against the whole power of the country at such a distance from Calcutta and cut off from all resources: Subordinates must always derive their security from the influence and power of the capital settlement. We are ready and willing to put Calcutta into that respectable condition, and when you are once in a situation to call that Government to account for any acts of injustice (which we hope will soon be) our property will be as secure in the factory at Cossimbuzar as it would in a fort on Birampore plain and our credit and influence more extensive and esteemed; and therefore you are not to deviate from the rules laid down to you last season respecting the carrying on our affairs at Cossimbuzar and our other subordinates without the least parade of soldiers, fortifications or even the appearance of military strength.

56. By Mr. Brohier's letter and estimate addressed to our Secret Committee it appears that the erection of the citadel of Calcutta only, inclusive of the town and enclosure, will cost us 1,911,569 current rupees, an enormous sum indeed. We wish you had mentioned what number of men would be required to garrison it, for however willing we may be to bear an extraordinary expense for the security of this settlement and its acquisitions, yet a number of soldiers are seldom to be procured, and if His Majesty had not graciously condescended to give us one thousand men we should not have been able to have sent you any considerable assistance this season. From your represent[ation] and the judgement we form of the too extensive work, we sent you double the number of men as was first settled for your garrison and this we will endeavour to keep up. More [men can] not be expected, we mean [Europeans], for other troops must be [left] to your own prudence and discretion to enlist as many as you shall find absolutely necessary. As the works ought not to be of greater extent [than] can be defended by a moderate garrison, even less than we have mentioned if possible, you must, therefore, have a particular regard to the directions on

our letter of the 4th of May 1757 and the instructions given at that time to Mr. Mace for confining your works to a contracted plan. But are these fortifications and works to be erected and carried on, a large garrison maintained and the town enclosed at our sole expense? Do not the property and estates of the community receive the same security and protection as ours? Is there the example of any government that ever existed where the people did not contribute a proportional share? Yet this has never been so much as considered by you but, on the contrary, we are charged with the full value of every house that is pulled down to make room for these fortifications (notwithstanding you could not but well remember the positive directions we gave to this purpose in our letter of the 29th November 1754). In the government of Mr. Boen the Town Hall of Bombay was built and the merchants cheerfully agreed to an additional tax of one per cent on their trade until the Company was reimbursed the expense, and by this contribution their church and customs houses were erected in Governor Law's time. It was very wisely judged for the preservation of that island to strengthen it with a ditch and remove all houses and cocoanut trees to a proper distance from the fortifications. Individuals, it is true, were paid their value by the Company, which was right and equitable, but then the community submitted without a murmur to be taxed until the whole of this expense was repaid us. However, to the praise of our servants at Bombay in this instance they have set a recent example, for by our last letters we have the pleasure to find that in consideration of the great and expensive works now carrying on for putting that island into a state of security they had assembled the inhabitants who willingly consented not only to a fresh duty on their trade (the customs already $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent) [but] also upon all their lands. Similar measures, judicial and equitable, merit your most serious atten[tion], else the load may be too great for us, and neither in reason [or in] justice ought we to bear it.

57. Mr. Brohier [in] his letter to our Secret Committee expresses himself to be under great difficulties for want of assistant engineers, and Mr. James Macdonald whom he brought with him as such to have declined that service. If we are not mistaken, the same person is preferred by you to be the master of our powder mills with a handsome stipend annexed to his post. It, therefore, appears to us a very strange step, the rewarding a man for refusing his duty and distressing our service. These things ought always to be explained to us because whoever refuses to act in his own department forfeits our service, for if once our servants assume to accept or reject as shall best suit their interest and inclination there is an end to order or obedience. We therefore positively forbid such removes in future. Engineers shall be kept in their own line, nor shall the officers in the train of artillery be changed unless it is for persons of superior experience and abilities in that branch. If their lucrative prospects are confined by such restrictions (which we must suppose), set forth the reasonable allowances that will put them near upon a level in point of advantages with our military, for we had rather bear an increased expense than have these important branches filled with disqualified persons and which must often happen by the methods you now suffer to be pursued.

58. Mr. Brohier having been very pressing to be supplied with master bricklayers, we have accordingly used our best endeavours to engage some which will be more particularly mentioned under the 6th head.

59. You will find your request for building a custom house anticipated in our plan of regulations sent you last year.

60. In the 122 and 123 paragraphs of your letter of the 10th January you give an account of your regulating the Zemindary. But as we have entirely abolished the same, what you have done in that and all other respects must give place to the orders and directions in our said letter of regulations.

61. We very much approve of the demolition of Chandernagore and also of your resolution of tendering that settlement to the Nabob.

Sixthly and seventhly, of covenant and military servants and accounts

62. In our letter of the 1st of November we informed you of our appointment of eleven writers upon the Bengal establishment and their rank. H. Goodwin and J. W. Holwell are already in India, William Eyton, Thomas Trist, William Drake, and John Graham took passage on the *Calcutta*. The other five now proceed on these ships viz., E. Clough, W. Wilkins, E. Gulson, R. Browne and Thomas Forbes.

63. You have been also informed of our appointing two chaplains upon the Bengal establishment viz., the Reverend Mr. John Moore and Mr. John Cape. The first named took his passage in the *Calcutta* and the other goes in the *Stormont*.

64. As any of our covenant servants attain the age of twenty one years they are to execute [fresh] covenants, which being done are to be returned to us prop[er]ly witnessed, for which purpose we have already sent and shall continue to supply you with [.....] ones. As this is to be a stan[d]ing and invariable rule we shall expect that you will take care that it [is] strictly complied with.

65. When a writer advances to the station of a factory an additional security is req[ui]red to be given for the faithful dis[charge] of his duty and further security is to be given as he advances [.....] station, of which every servant must be apprised from time to time that he may write to [his] friends in England to give such security accordingly. This [also] must be a standing rule.

66. We enclose for your present information a list of the names of such persons who are to execute fresh covenants as also of those who are to procure their friends to give additional security for them.

67. We have used our best endeavours to get some able master bricklayers to proceed to Bengal to be assisting in and carrying on the works. You were advised in a letter writ to you by our order under date of the 10th November from our Secretary that we had entertained John Raper at the salary and for the time therein mentioned and he accordingly took passage on the *Duke of Dorset*.

68. By our letter of the 23rd January you were likewise informed that we had sent you in the *Royal George* two more master bricklayers viz., Thomas Brading and James Daw, also Charles [Bonwick] apprentice to Bradding. [But] we are now to acquaint you that Thomas Brading being sick was put ashore at Portsmouth together [with the] said apprentice.. If [they.....] on any of these ships [.....] give you notice.

69. We have [.....] Mr. Plenderleath leave [.....] to Bengal to practice [.....] a surgeon and having [.....] good character of [.....] recommend him to [.....] such in the Comp [.....] in case of a vacancy [.....] approve him after [.....] have been already [.....] succeed (if any such...) shall be provided [.....].

70. In [.....] of the sufferings and [.....] in the late troubles [.....] Burdel Lushing [.....] we gave them by our direction last season two years of their time by which means Ralph Leychester was superseded but as from what has been observed under the first head of this letter it appears Mr. Leychester has great merit, we do, therefore, direct that he be re-placed on the list of covenant servants according to his original standing which is the next below Samuel Middleton.

71. In your letter by the *Diligent* you mentioned your having, on the great scarcity of covenant servants, employed Thomas Hewitt in the Secretary's office as a monthly writer with the same allowances as our own servants. We recommend him to be made a covenant servant. Although this is a door that it is with very great reluctance we are ever induced to open, yet considering the present [.....] of servants, we shall for this [time] comply with your request and do hereby appoint the said Thomas Hewett a covenant writer upon the Bengal establishment to serve in that station five years from the time of your receiving this letter and to be ranked the next after the last of the writers we have appointed this season, that is to say, next below John W. Holwell. Mr. Hewitt is to execute the covenants sent for that purpose in the packet by the ship *Ajax* which are to be returned to us and he must write to his friends in England to give the usual security for him.

72. We direct that Richard Barwell, one of the writers on your establishment, instead of the station he now stands in upon the list, be ranked the next below John Woolaston.

73. The President and Council at Bombay having informed us by their General Letter of the 8th April 1758 that the commander of the *Betsey*, a ship in which Mr. Pearkes is concerned, had proceeded to Muscat and elsewhere under a Dutch pass and colours, and that he had put the ship under the protection of the Dutch at Surat, which Mr. Pearkes by a letter to the Directors, approved of and desired he would assist the captain in the disposal of the cargo, all which, together with the bad consequences that may result from such a conduct, having been fully represented to you by our said President and Council, we shall say that the best construction that can be put thereon [.....] that it is extremely weak a[n]d ill judged, and if Mr. Pearkes should at any time give occasion for a complaint of this kind again he may depend upon our resenting it highly.

74. As by this conduct the President and Council of Bombay were deprived of the means [of] collecting our duties on [the] *Betsey's* cargo which they have also fully represented to you and desired you to recover [the] amount of Mr. Pearkes, [we] shall expect to hear by your next letters their request has been complied with; but if contrary to our expectation that shall not appear we [insist] upon Mr. Pearkes immediately paying the said duties as he values our future favour.

75. We are now to animadvert upon your conduct in the drawing of bills,

loans to the navy etc., and your management in these and some other instances, we shall here mention, appear to us amazingly weak, inconsistent and highly injurious to our interest, measures that have filled us with astonishment because we had conceived the most favourable opinion of your abilities and real attachment to your employers, consequently could never suspect that you would bring such distresses upon us as were never before experienced by this Company. But what increases our resentment and aggravates your conduct is that you foresaw those difficulties and yet plunged us as deep as possible. For, turne to your letter per *Dilligent* and read what you say, nay what you concluded, that you would for those several reasons there assigned draw bills upon us in the most sparing manner, "but all to be payable at 12 months' sight with interest of 3 per cent after 90 days". Go on then to your next letter per *Marlbrough*. Give it a careful perusal. Judge if any person of commonsense could possibly comprehend from any part of it that you had altered that judicious resolution, and next examine your consultations and you will know these determinations were never revoked. How cruel, how barbarous then was this conduct and usage to employers who have lately treated many of you with the greatest lenity and indulgence. If you had studied to ruin our credit worse measures could not have been adopted, because you lulled us into a state of false security, else we might have been much better prepared to answer your unwarantable draughts, for the duplicate of the *Marlbrough's* letter reached us long before that ship arrived in Ireland. But we in ourselves were confident until the bills were produced that they were drawn at 12 months' sight. From your consultations we gather little although they have been strictly scrutinised. The few debates and resolutions are short, confused and incoherent and upon the whole they seem to infer a necessity of granting bills as the treasury had been drained by that extraordinary step of advancing our money to the army and navy. But was that a just reason for drawing those bills? You must be concious to yourselves it was not, for your then President proposed the borrowing money at five per cent and we are satisfied you could have had any sums upon almost any terms. However, giving his weak argument all the weight you could wish, does the shaddow of a reason appear for granting those bills at ninety days? You do not even attempt a justification either on your consultations or in your letters, and your first resolution for 12 months stands unrevoked.

76. Can we, therefore, possibly draw any other conclusion than that individuals were to be gratified to our great detriment, for, supposing you had been distressed for money, would not President Clive have thankfully accepted your bills upon us for any sum payable in 12 months, with interest after 90 days, rather than risked a large part of his fortune with foreigners, subject to deductions and payable at distant periods? And indeed we must add that if any person merited our indulgence it was certainly due to President Clive.

77. In consultation you agree to grant bills to the coral traders, possessors of Company's bonds, estates of deceased persons, debts due in England, the estate of Admiral Watson, small sums for necessaries and these only. This is repeatedly and solemnly determined but totally disregarded. It pains us to throw out such a train of thoughts and reflections against you and all corroborated under your own hands, for, did you not grant bills to the officers of the regiment, Captain Speke, Colonel Ford, Captain Fraser etc., to a great amount?

Can these by the most strained inference be brought within the meaning of your resolutions? At the same time we are to remark the appearance of some gross partiality. How came these gentlemen to be gratified and the estate of Major Kilpatrick (who had been a valuable and meritorious servant) included in your plan to be rejected and how do you reconcile the excluding Mr. Cruttenden to favour those persons—a gentleman who had served us upwards of 25 years? In short, in many other instances you seem to have acted like men divested of your understanding. We shall single out but one only and which we require you to explain and that is in sending large quantities of bullion by shipping to Madras and at the same time drawing upon Madras for 100,000 rupees.

78. The advancing large sums to the navy and army is a measure that we can by no means approve, and you should have confined your reply to these gentlemen to this single point that you had not authority to use the Company's money but for their own service. This honest and fair answer must have satisfied any reasonable men. It was certainly a fact, for your lending our money was clearly an unwarrantable liberty. But we are ashamed to see how superficially this important point was discussed, no estimates framed of future demands for your investments, currency of business, extensive sums for fortifying Calcutta, garrison and incidental charges, so that in a little more than a month it was found that our treasury was drained and you under the necessity of borrowing. To this we must add that the methods you look to for pacifying the officers of the navy by giving them jewels and cloth and thereby making the Company liable to the loss that we think must necessarily arise thereon was a further instance of your disregard to the Company's interest and it is highly disapproved of by us.

79. Your consultations reach only to the 25th December 1757, although the last ship sailed from Bengal the 13th March. This is inexcusable and carries an ill appearance. Thus your motives for many material transactions are kept from our knowledge, nor can we, if such measures are continued, ever have a true state of our affairs before us. You know it is expressly contrary to our standing orders, nor is it possible to assign one good reason for this great neglect. However, as we formerly had cause to complain of such mismanagement, the rules laid down to you by our last year's shipping renders it unnecessary to enlarge here. To them therefore you are particularly referred.

80. Your conduct and through your means in a great measure that of our President and Council at Bombay in drawing upon us for so large sums is hardly to be forgiven, because by gratifying individuals without the necessity of our affairs requiring it they and you have sacrificed the Company's interest, for there never was a period equal to the present distress brought on entirely by these steps, though fortunately for us our difficulties are almost surmounted. In order, therefore, to guard against such evils in future we lay down to you and our other Presidencies the following standing orders, and we shall consider any deviation from them as a breach of your covenant with us, for which you must expect to be respectively answerable.

81. That bills of exchange beyond £20,000 in one year shall at no time be granted from your Presidency, unless by unforeseen accidents your investments or the currency of business oblige you to extend it. In such situation, we must leave it to your discretion proportioning the draughts to your wants.

82. In such case, if your necessities should require £100,000 in one year or more, we would rather, if practicable, a credit was obtained in India even though we suffer by interest until we can reimburse you.

83. But if you are obliged to draw upon us and the sum exceeds £50,000, let all bills so exceeding £50,000 to whatever amount be made payable twelve months after sight and no interest to be allowed, but in lieu thereof allow the proprietors an equitable consideration as it may be best adjusted and this in the way of exchange by raising the values of rupees to them upon that occasion only, that we may have no cloggs whatever at home, for indeed bills of exchange carrying interest have not a creditable appearance.

84. It is some satisfaction to us that the President and Council of Fort St. George comprehended the importance of this subject totally neglected by you and Bombay and, in consequence, their draughts upon us were very inconsiderable, for whenever the circulation of our capital is obstructed our difficulties must multiply upon us. We find it erroneously conceived that if a cargo is returned us, suppose in value £100,000, it will suffice to clear bills drawn upon us for the like sum by such ship. But this is an impossibility as we could never come into money from the sale of such cargo before the bills would be due, and in the present instance, from the long stay of our ships in Ireland, our bills were tendered and due even before the ships reached England. It is also supposed that our China ships, some of which generally arrive early and are rich, might aid us and remove the difficulties but neither would they be any relief to us as the Company tie themselves down to particular times of sailing so that even their cargoes cannot be sold soon enough to assist us.

85. This must be plain to you that we can seldom be in a condition to answer large draughts at a short date. Formerly indeed we might, but our fortifications, large garrisons and other military expenses have and continue to swallow immense sums.

The Nabob of Arcot's debt, another heavy load, and the detention (during war unavoidable) distresses us beyond measure for we now furnish annually the cargos of twenty ships or more with very little aid from returns of the preceeding year. But when we add to all this, what is really the total amount of the invoices of all the cargoes, both from Bengal and Bombay on the late ships, falls very short of the amount of the bills drawn upon us by the ships on which such cargoes are laden, it cannot but inevitably increase our distress as well as further expose the conduct of you and our servants at Bombay.

86. You seem to adopt an opinion that some persons, more particularly the coral traders, have from custom a right to pay their money into our treasury now at Bengal. There never was any regular permission granted, but they as very beneficial traders were indulged remittances with our entire approbation so long as it suited our affairs to accommodate them. Fort St. George Presidency indeed held a liberty of obliging the coral traders and as the permission was not revoked it stood in force at that place although by their obligation to the Company, a form whereof we now transmit for your information, they had expressly no right to demand it. We are still willing to oblige those gentlemen and all others under our protection so long as such occasional kindness does not embarrass us or prejudice us, but at the same time we are to declare for your future observance that no person or persons shall be suffered to pay money

into our cash beyond what the Company's occasions shall absolutely require as before mentioned.

87. We are surprised at the omission you mention of money being paid into our treasury for bills intended by the *Delaware* and which you say were never signed on account of the troubles. It is equally strange you should not, at any time after, not even in the letter wherein you take notice of this omission, describe those bills for our information.

88. You will observe by what we said last year with respect to the claim made by the owners of the *Dodaly* that we were not satisfied with that transaction and that we expected, before so considerable a demand was discharged, the whole of that affair was clearly and distinctly stated to us, but you have been beforehand with us by paying the said owners the sum of CRs. 57,283.2 for the cotton landed from that ship in order, as it is said, to make her capable of acting defensively and offensively against the enemy at the time Fort William was taken. Upon turning to your consultation of the 23rd May we find the resolution for paying that money was far from being unanimous and even in that consultation there appear from the opinion of some of the members of your Board sufficient reasons at least to have deferred the payment until you had received our directions. Notwithstanding your having thus discharged the same we shall expect that you will comply with our last year's orders by sending a full and explicit account of this affair as then directed because we will not allow of your discharging that sum until we have received the said account.

89. You used a proper precaution in granting and wording the certificates you gave to those persons who had lost their interest notes at the capture of Calcutta, and whenever application is made to us we shall order a strict examination and do them justice if their demands appear to be well grounded. In the meantime as you were furnished last year with copies of many books and papers, amongst which were those of your cash accounts, you must make a very strict enquiry into every such claim and report the whole to us by the very first opportunity, together with your opinion thereon for our own guidance and determination.

90. The several books and papers sent last year and those you will receive by these conveyances will put it in your power to make every adjustment, and the true method with the subordinate settlements, warehouses and in all other instances, will be to bring on every original balance, set off the several losses by crediting each head and debiting account compensation of money and goods received from the Government, and when this is completed the difference will be seemingly our loss and gain, but that there may be no deception in choosing such an extraordinary head, let account compensation of moneys and goods received from the Government be charged with your Futta donations, and all other expenses for the support of the inhabitants, the restitution, with many other such extraordinary payments. In short, debit this head with every charge consequential to the loss of Calcutta excluding the demolition of houses and the erection of your new fortifications, but then you should charge the old and we apprehend the close of this account will be no very great sum in our favour.

91. With regard to your request for our orders as to the debts due from the *dadney* merchants at Cossimhuzar they are to remain as they stood

originally upon the books until you give us a clear and satisfactory information as to all the circumstances of those accounts and what the sums are which are said to be collected by the late Nabob and whether it appears equitable to make any deduction for the same. In the meantime you must collect in as much as you possibly can of the said merchants' debts which shall appear to be reasonably due to us.

92. The appointing of thirteen persons to make an equitable distribution of the Nabob's donation was a right measure for freeing you from reflections but surely every demand should have been established upon oath. The account before us is rather dark and confused, for it seems to us the coral traders were allowed the market price it was supposed their coral would yield. By the same rule of equity our consulage and duties should first have been deducted. If this was not done you neglected our interest. The increase of 15% to their estates for months, in our opinion, was much beyond reason and 5% to the commissioners, a lavish allowance. Respecting the surplus our sentiments were given last year and from which we shall not depart.

93. We do not find by the said account any notice taken of Deepchund's deposit, where in all reason we expected it should appear, but we expect to be informed you have taken proper care to secure the amount of it out of the Nabob's donation for indemnifying private property, as this deposit must certainly be looked upon in that light and lay only in our hands until the disputes between the representatives of Messrs Coal's and Deepchund's could be settled. If this is not done we positively direct that the said deposit be immediately replaced.

94. Your consultation lately received reaching no further than the 26th December 1757 is a real disappointment to us and your excuses for it are very unsatisfactory, for when you are informed of the sickness of any person employed in such a material service he should have been instantly replaced, and although we are sensible you were in some want of assistance, yet we are satisfied you might have found a hand or two for this work as it was nothing more than mere copying and we expect you will take due care to prevent our making any complaints of this nature again.

95. We cannot avoid observing in this place that there appears great confusion, irregularity and omissions upon the face of your consultations book now before us. As they are too many to be pointed out, we shall only take notice that in the dispute between you and the gentlemen of the navy with respect to advancing out of our cash what remained due to them from the Nabob on account of his donation, you have only entered their letters without one of your own or that from the Nabob which gave rise to them. If they were designedly omitted, it is unfair, and if owing to negligence, inexcusable, as in either case we are deprived of the full information which an affair of such consequence requires. Instead of any other animadversion, we refer you to a careful inspection of the consultations themselves, and as you cannot but be convinced of the truth of what we say, we shall thereupon, and by a careful observance of the many standing orders on this head, expect you will give us no reason to complain again of irregularities and omissions.

96. We last year sent you copies of many books and papers and by these

ships we send you abundance more, agreeable to your request, as well as what we apprehended might be useful to you, for the particulars of all which you are referred to the lists of the respective packets.

97. We are not a little surprised to see the unreasonable opposition made by Mr. Douglas to the manner you proposed of paying his bond to him and should have expected that a gentleman in his situation would have been the last to have laid us under any difficulties, even if he had the strict law upon his side which in this instance we apprehend he has not, for as we suppose the condition of the bond is to pay him the money he lent us generally without specifying in what kind of coin such repayment shall be made, we certainly have a right to make the payment in any specie that shall be the established current money of the country at the time we pay it, and as you made the tender in the current money of the country, we think you acted properly upon the whole. Mr. Douglas' behaviour upon this occasion appearing to be insolent as well as frivolous and tending to set an example of obstinacy and opposition, which every person in the like situation of enjoying the benefit of our protection as free merchants should avoid, we would have you therefore inform the said Mr. Douglas that we do not think him any longer worthy of the Company's protection and that he leaves India in a year from the time you notify this our directions to him.

98. In this packet you receive our Auditor's examination and observations upon the debt at interest as stated in your general states of the 4th March 1756 received per *Denham*, 6th January 1758 per *Marlbrough*, and 28th February 1758 per *Elizabeth*, whereby you will find that this debt has been continually represented in an improper light. For instance, in March 1756 the debt is said to be decreased rupees 348,042-12-3 but no notice is taken of the fresh notes granted to that time which amount to rupees 100,286-15-6. The sum paid off to 23 February 1756 appears to be rupees 234,858-5 so that the true decrease is no more than rupees 44,571-5-6. In your state January 1758, you mention the new bonds granted to 30 September 1757 to be rupees 481,159-2, whereas it appears by your treasury accounts from May 1755 to February 1756, the cash account at Fulta from June to December 1756, your General Books from January to April 1757 and your treasury accounts and consultations from May 1757 to February 1758, that this increase amounts to rupees 615,150-2-6. Your deduction rupees 77,526-14 for notes paid off from January to April 1757 appears to consist of interest as well as principal by your General Books. This is highly irregular because the interest is not added to the amount of the debt. The further deduction of rupees 1,166,255-13 for notes paid off to the 6th January 1758 appears to be only rupees 504,484 principal. Nor can your sum be any way made up even if the interest paid to that time is added to the principal. The payment of rupees 1,588,313-13-6, mentioned in your state February 1758, appears to be only rupees 906,811-5-6 principal, so that instead of the debt at interest being reduced to rupees 1,059,488-14 the true amount thereof appears to be rupees 1,820,972-6-9.

99. Beside the above difference in your general states of the debt at interest, we observe that several persons have been paid larger sums than their credits on the books begining January 1757. Those payments are explained in the Auditor's observations herewith sent and appear to have arisen for want of due credits being given for interest at the times when fresh

notes were granted. The omissions in the consultations of the particular times when any endorsements of principal or interest have been made, also the times for which the interest subsists and the blending the interest upon different notes, together with the want of proper references from the treasury accounts to the pages of the consultations when the notes are granted (many of which appear to be antedated) have rendered this examination very difficult and tedious. Your treasury accounts differing from your consultations by frequently omitting the mention of notes transferred or fresh notes being granted when the interest which is accrued is converted into principal, has been another cause of the present mistakes. By our Auditor's remarks sent you the last year you had full instructions for properly stating the debt at interest, which we hope you have pursued, whereby we may see the adjustment of the whole debt with the particular interest due to each person to the 1st October 1757. You must also be careful that references be always inserted in your journal to the pages of the books which are the foundation of each entry, as well relating to the debt at interest as every other transaction.

100. Many of you are persons of approved characters and abilities and as such stood high in our esteem. We are, therefore, willing to attribute part of the chain of irregularities, omissions and deviations from our interest, pointed out in the course of this letter, from the amazing and sudden transition from uncommon distress and misery to an affluent situation. We also make allowances for conducting the affairs of a colony emerging out of confusion into some regularity and order which must engage your attention. In fine, our inclinations strongly lead us to wish to find you faithful as well as able servants and that the very gentle admonitions and animadversions in this letter, considering all circumstances, may excite you to a just and studious discharge of your duty. But if, contrary to our expectations, your conduct should not be entirely reformed we shall be under the indispensable necessity of doing ourselves justice.

101. On His Majesty's having been graciously pleased to grant the Company the battallion of troops under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Eyre Coote, as is particularly mentioned in our letter of the 23rd January last, it will be necessary to make some regulations in the military system of our Bengal Presidency, and although we apprehend this battallion will be a sufficient force and had some thoughts of depending upon it alone for the defence of our settlements in Bengal, yet upon considering well all circumstances we have determined to keep up a body of troops in the Company's pay which however will be necessarily fewer than we ordered in our letters last session.

102. We, therefore, direct that our own troops upon the Bengal establishment do consist of 300 Europeans and no more, exclusive of those in the artillery company, officers included. These are to be formed into three companies of an equal number in each.

103. One of these companies is to be commanded by the Major, the second by Captain Fenwick, the third company is to be that under the command of Captain Delavel which was raised by himself and proceeded to Bengal last season.

104. With respect to the subaltern officers and private men you are to

reserve out of the number that shall be with you on the receipt of this letter so many as will be necessary to complete this new establishment who are to be all Europeans. The remainder are to be sent to Fort St. George and Bombay in such proportions as, from the advices you may have from those Presidencies, may appear to be most wanted, as such of the recruits likewise now sent by the *Prince Henry* who are not wanted are to be forwarded thither in like manner.

105. You are also to reserve a sufficient number of men to complete the artillery company under the command of Captain Mace agreeable to the establishment.

106. The Commander-in-Chief of these our own forces upon the Bengal establishment under orders and directions of your own Governor and Council is to be Lieutenant Colonel Eyre Coote, His Majesty having permitted him to receive such commission from the Company. Colonel Coote is to have no salary or emoluments from us as commander of our forces, but in consideration that he generally declines annexing any lucrative advantages to this appointment, we order that he be accommodated with a handsome and convenient house at our expense and that in all respects he be treated in a kind and genteel manner. With regard to his allowances as commander of the King's forces they are to be made agreeable to the directions in our letter of the 23rd January last.

107. We direct that Mr. P. P. Polier de Bottens be Major of these our own forces under the command of Colonel Coote.

108. The [.....] Government, in case of an attack as explained and directed in our General Letter of the 12 May 1758, are to be the following persons, and these only: President Clive or the President for the time being, Colonel Coote or the Commander-in-Chief for the time being, Major Polier or the Major for the time being, Captain Mace or the Engineer for the time being and Captain James Barton. The reason for appointing the last named gentleman is on account of the high opinion we entertain of his abilities to serve us in such an exigency, but in case of his death or absence you are to add the next most capable military officer below the Major in the manner directed in our said letter of the 12th May.

109. Colonel Lawrence being according to our former appointment Commander-in-Chief under the Governors and Councils of all our forces in the East Indies, if therefore he shall happen at any time to be in Bengal, he is to act accordingly in all and every instance as Commander-in-Chief, notwithstanding any of the foregoing directions and to be second in the Government mentioned in the preceeding paragraph.

110. As we esteem Colonel Lawrence devoted to our interest and have a high opinion of his military qualities, we direct that in case of the death or absence of Colonel Coote he have the sole appointment of the Commander-in-Chief for your establishment until our further pleasure can be known. Of this Colonel Lawrence is advised in our letters to the President and Council of Fort St. George by these conveyances and whoever he appoints must on no pretence whatever be set aside by you.

111. The great advantage and benefit that must arise to us by connecting the King's and our forces under one commander is obvious and leaves

no room to employ Colonel Ford, nor can we say that the conditions you made with that gentleman are at all agreeable to us. On the contrary, we order you never to do the like again and we must add you were under no necessity for taking such a step as we well know that President Clive pointed out a gentleman of great military abilities, a servant of our own, to fill that post.

112. You have already had directions with respect to Colonel Lawrence's rank in Council and at the Select Committee whenever it may happen that he shall be in Bengal which are to be punctually observed.

113. Whenever you deliberate on military affairs or any matters relative thereto, Colonel Coote is constantly to be of Council both at the Council Board and in your Select Committee and to have a voice therein. His rank is to be next to Colonel Lawrence, if he happens to be in Bengal, otherways next to the President.

114. In the like manner Major Polier is likewise to be called to the Council and the Select Committee on military affairs and then only and have a voice therein. His rank is to be next below the second in Council for the time being.

115. Having a very good opinion of Captain William Ingram, who quits His Majesty's service to enter into ours and now takes his passage on the *Houghton* for Bengal, we do direct that he succeed to the first vacant captain's commission which shall happen after his arrival in the before mentioned three companys and take rank next after Captain Delavel. In the meantime and until such vacancy shall happen, he is to have pay as a captain after the rate of 10/- a day and is to be employed when and wherever it shall be necessary for the service of the Company.

116. We observe from the last return of the military transmitted us by Colonel Clive that you had no less than thirteen captains to about 670 Europeans. This is a heavy expense and we have encreased it by sending you the last year and this four captains to succeed to vacancies, so that by our present regulations for the reduction of our own forces to three companys as before mentioned we shall have, including Captain Delavel who carried out his own men, fifteen supernumerary captains. In order to be relieved from this weight and avail ourselves of the service of these officers, we direct that the four captains from Madras be returned to their establishment and one from Bombay sent thither. Messrs Zeigler and Mackey who belonged originally to Bombay are to be ordered to their standing on that establishment as the reasons for their discontent will no longer exist, and as we are in want of good officers at the last named settlement you are to send thither two or three of these supernumerarys, the rest you are to send to Madras or keep with you as shall appear best for our interest and convenience. The same measures you are to pursue with the several supernumerary officers below the rank of captain.

117. As trains of artillery and men in that important branch may be much wanted in Bengal we shall order from Bombay to your Presidency all that can be spared.

118. We now send some cadets for our own troops who are to be preferred in the order we name them if they behave well viz., John Stables, Thomas Colby Owen, George Burgall, Peter Mc Lachlin, Christoper Theophilus Chaigneux, and John Lewis, but if any of them by the reduction of our military

establishment cannot be provided for in Bengal they are to be sent and recommended for preferment to our other Presidencies.

119. By these ships we have writ to the President and Council of Fort St. George to send to you Major Polier who, as before observed, is to be Major of our forces on the Bengal establishment instead of his present situation as such upon the coast of Choromandel. You are, therefore, to forward our packets thither and desire the President and Council to send him as soon as they can conveniently. As we have already settled his rank and in what manner he is to be consulted on military affairs in the preceeding paragraphs, we have only to add he is to have the clothing of the first company, that his allowance as an occasional Councillor, Major of our forces and captain of a company, be £250 a year and have the appointments for diet, servants, wages and palankeen usually annexed to the station of third in Council, which salary and appointments for the said several stations of an occasional Council, Major of our forces and captain of a company, are to commence upon his arrival and are to be in full consideration for his services in the said several departments.

120. In case of the death or absence of Major Polier you are to appoint an officer who you shall judge to be best qualified to succeed him provisionally until our further pleasure is known, as we are determined to reserve the filling up of the post of Major to ourselves.

121. Notwithstanding what we have here said as to confining the military establishment of the Company's own forces to the number of three hundred Europeans and no more (exclusive of the artillery company), our meaning is that the forces in Bengal including the King's and Company's should be never less than one thousand Europeans. In case then any accident should attend any part of the battallion you are in such a case to make a sufficient reserve out of the supernumerary officers and men.

122. We have entertained William Welber as Assistant Engineer in Bengal for the term of five years at the pay of seventy four pounds sterling a year, which is to be in full for salary, diet money, and all other allowances whatsoever, to commence upon his arrival, and you are accordingly to pay the same as it becomes due. This young gentleman being recommended to us as exceedingly well qualified for the purpose we send him. We hope he will be of good use to the Company.

123. We have been greatly at a loss on the Company's account as well as to answer the frequent applications of particular people for information with respect to persons belonging to our military service in Bengal, and this for want of your sending us muster rolls of the several companys which you have of late totally neglected. We therefore direct that you send us by every conveyance exact and regular muster rolls of every company in our service containing the names of all the officers and men in each with their age and when entered. You are to give an exact account therein of the deaths, discharges, desertion and entry of new men from time to time together with any other informations which may render these muster rolls as complete as possible, the whole to be signed by the proper officers.

124. Our President Colonel Clive has sent us from time to time since his being in Bengal a regular return of our military force. As such returns are

extremely necessary for our information you are to take care that the commander of our own forces for the time being send them to us by every conveyance.

Supplement

125. You were informed in our letter of the 23 January that the squadron proceeding to the East Indies was composed of the four following named ships, but as we did not at that time know who was to have the command or the names of the captains of the several ships, we are now to acquaint you that His Majesty has been pleased to appoint Admiral Cornish to take the command of the said ships, a gentleman whom we are satisfied will do every thing in his power to serve the Company.

<i>The Lenox</i>	74 guns	...	Cornish
<i>Duke of Aquitaine</i>	64 "	...	Hewett
<i>York</i>	60 "	...	Pearse
<i>Falmouth</i>	50 "	...	Hughs

126. This squadron being intended to strengthen His Majesty's naval force already in the East Indies and to be employed and act in such a manner as shall best tend to the protection of the Company's trade and settlements, you are upon its arrival in Bengal river to give Admiral Cornish intelligence with respect to the rest of His Majesty's fleet in order to facilitate his joining it when proper, the situation and force of the enemy and to concert with him the necessary measures for the good of the service in general as circumstances and the situation of affairs may require.

127. The principal intention of this squadron proceeding first to Bengal is to bring you about 200 soldiers of Colonel Coote's battallion and to give convoy to the Company's ships *Houghton*, *Stormont* and *Ajax*, on which is embarked the remainder of the battallion.

As the King's ships will not proceed far into Bengal river, you are, upon the first notice of their arrival, to find means to take the troops out of them with the utmost dispatch that the Admiral may lose no time in pursuing the further objects of his commission.

128. You are to behave in a friendly and obliging manner to Admiral Cornish and with civility to the several captains, agreeable to the directions which you have had on former occasions with respect to your behaviour in general to His Majesty's sea officers.

129. You will observe by the manifests of private trade of some of the ships of this season, particularly the *Ajax* and *Houghton*, that the commanders are indulged in carrying out trading guns, shot, and flints to the amount of about £40.0.0 for the purchase of provisions in case they shall happen to touch at Madagascar but it is on this express condition that if they do not touch there they are to deliver the same to you or the Governors and Councils of either of our other Presidencies, at which place so ever they shall first arrive, at the prime cost. Therefore you are to call upon each commander accordingly to comply with the said condition.

130. In addition to the directions already given with regard to the *Prince*

Henry packet, we further order that in case she remains in India the commander and officers are to have the liberty of continuing in the Company's service or come home as charterparty passengers or as officers in our freighted ships if they can get berths and in general we recommend them to be encouraged according to their behaviour.

131. It appearing that large quantities of piece goods by the ships lately arrived are very much damaged and principally of the fine sorts, in order to prevent as far as lies in your power the like misfortune for the future, you are to make it a standing rule to point out in writing to the commander of all our ships laden by you the bales which contain the fine sorts of goods and give them directions to stow them in such a manner as may render them the least liable to be damaged.

132. We are informed from good authority that two of our servants of considerable rank actually received from Kissendass upwards of 50,000 rupces for our protecting his person against Suraja Doulah. If this iniquitous transaction should be proved what an account have these men to render here and hereafter, for according to human conjecture it was the foundation of your late bloody calamities. The justice you owe to these murdered innocents, to your employers and to your own characters, will not suffer us even to surmise that you will screen such villany. You will, therefore, examine strictly and immediately into the truth of this report, give the enquiry preference to every other concern, and use every justifiable method with Europeans and natives to come at the knowledge of facts, and should any be found guilty, dismissal from our service must not only instantly follow but a prosecution in our behalf for damages sustained must be commenced against him or them in the Mayor's Court and whatever precautions can be used for the security of our demands we expect upon this occasion will be put in force.

133. Upon receipt of this letter we direct that Captain James Barton be appointed of Council at Fort William and to rank upon your establishment next to Mr. Mathew Collet, having a high sense of his integrity and resolution as well as of his attachment to the Company and we also direct that Captain Barton be a member of the Select Committee.

134. Although we have directed that Colonel Coote is to be of Council on military affairs only, yet we do further order and direct that when you proceed upon the examination of affairs relative to the ship *Restitution*, Mr. Leychester's information, the saltpetre contract with Omichund and what we have directed with regard to Kissendass, in all these cases Colonel Coote is to be of Council as he is also in every other matter which may be necessary to be enquired into from the first commencement of the troubles in Bengal. These enquiries we positively order to be set about without the least loss of time after the receipt of this letter and you are to give us a full, clear and circumstantial account of all your proceedings herein for our information.

135. Since what we have already mentioned with regard to the *Restitution*, it has been intimated to us that the commander Captain Durand returned to Calcutta with his pass, and the ship proceeded on the voyage without him and it is further said that only two Englishmen were left in charge of her.

136. Being informed that the prize money belonging to the officers and people of His Majesty's ship the *King Fisher* is still in Bengal, if the agents

apply to pay in the whole or any part thereof into our cash at Fort William, you are to receive the same and give bills of exchange upon us for the amount.

137. Since writing the foregoing we find that advices have been received at the French Court from Pondicherry giving an account of Mr. Lally's taking Fort St. David on the second of June last, that there had been two engagements between the British and French fleets off that coast and by what can be collected from the said accounts they turned out in our favor and it appears further that Fort St. George was safe in the beginning of September. Although we have received no accounts of these events either from thence or any other of our settlements, the French mention so many circumstances as to leave very little doubt of the truth of them in general. It seems to us that our fleet remains master of the sea and as we have good reason to hope that the *Grafton* and *Sunderland* men-of-war with the several ships under their convoy, together with the *Pitt* and the whole of Colonel Draper's battallion, reached Madras in September, that they will be able to stand their ground. All that we can now say is that we must depend upon your prudence and endeavours to conduct our affairs in such a manner as shall appear most for the interest of the Company according to the various exigences and circumstances which may occur in the present critical and dangerous situation and in concurring and joining with our other Presidencies for mutually assisting each other from time to time according to the best of your abilities.

138. We do hereby order and direct that Mr. William Ellis be one of the Council at Fort William and he is accordingly upon his arrival to take his seat therein next below Mr. R. Court.

We are,

Your loving friends,

H. Savage / G. Dudley / G. Steevens / G. Rooke / L. Sullivan / T. Rous / C. Burrow / H. Plant / J. Manship / F. Pigou / T. Tullie / H. Hadley / H. C. Boulton / T. Phips / C. Cutts / J. Dorrien / J. Raymond / J. Harrison.

London, 23rd March 1759.

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LETTER DATED 23 MARCH 1759

Despatch of reinforcements.

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. You were informed by our last letter of the 23rd January last which went by the way of Fort St. George that His Majesty had been graciously pleased to grant a battallion of his forces to proceed to the East Indies under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Eyre Coote, three companys whereof went on the Coast and China ships, which were to be immediately forwarded to you by the first conveyances the President and Council of Fort St. George

could provide. We are now to acquaint you that the remainder of the said battallion are embarked on His Majesty's squadron under the command of Admiral Cornish and our ships the *Ajax*, *Stormont* and *Houghton* under his convoy. The said squadron consists of

<i>The Lenox</i>	74 guns	Admiral Cornish,	Capt. R. Jocelyn
<i>Duke of Aquitaine</i>	64 "	" "	" Hewett
<i>York</i>	60 "	" "	" Pearse
<i>Falmouth</i>	50 "	" "	" Hughes

2. The principal intention of this squadron's proceeding first to Bengal is as before mentioned to bring you about 200 of Colonel Coote's battallion and give convoy to the ships on which the remainder are embarked. Having writt very fully by our own ships upon this affair we take the opportunity of sending this short letter by His Majesty's ships, lest by any accident one or more of them should arrive before the rest of the fleet, chiefly to advise you that as the King's ships will not proceed far into Bengal river you are upon the first notice of their arrival to find means to take the troops out of them with the utmost dispatch, that the Admiral may loose no time in pursuing the further objects of his commission.

3. This squadron being intended to strengthen His Majesty's naval force already in the East Indies and to be employed and act in such a manner as shall best lend to the protection of the Company's trade and settlements, you are upon its arrival to give Admiral Cornish intelligence with respect to the rest of His Majesty's fleet in order to facilitate his joining it when proper, the situation and force of the enemy, and to concert with him the necessary measures for the good of the service in general as circumstances and the situation of affairs may require, being fully satisfied that gentleman will do every thing in his power to serve the Company.

4. You are to behave in a friendly and obliging way to Admiral Cornish and with civility to the several captains agreeable to the directions which you have had on former occasions with respect to your behaviour in general to His Majesty's sea officers.

We are,

Your loving friends,

H. Savage / G. Dudley / G. Steevens / G. Rooke / J. Manship / F. Pigou / T. Tullie / H. Hadley / H. C. Boulton / L. Sullivan / T. Rous / C. Burrow / H. Plant / T. Phipps / C. Cutts / J. Dorrien / J. Raymond / J. Harrison.

London, 23rd March 1759.

LETTER DATED 23 NOVEMBER 1759

French interference with shipping—Personnel of the Secret Committee—Reinforcements—Despatch of surplus pepper to China direct—Non-^{of} wages to passengers proceeding to England on Company's

demurrage to owners of ships—Accounts of exported goods—Observation on the conduct of Robert Orme—Personnel of Select Committee—Nomination of Vansittart as successor to Clive.

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. It being necessary to convey some general informations to our several Presidencies previous to the sailing of the ships of this season, we have fitted out the *Syren* snow for that purpose, burthen about one hundred tons, carrying about twenty six men, whereof Captain Thomas Warren hath the command. She proceeds first to Anjengo when the letters intended for you and Fort St. George will be delivered to the Chief and Council of that settlement in order to be forwarded by them by the first safe conveyance.

2. The last letter we writ you went by the *Ajax*, *Stormont*, *Houghton* and *Prince Henry* packet under date of the 23rd of March last which with our former letters of that season, we hope, have come safe to your hands long before this can reach you.

3. By Captain Paschoud we received two short letters from you dated the 26th August and 22nd October with one from the Select Committee of the 10 November and by the *Ilchester* and *London* your advices of the 31 December 1758, 8th January 1759, also those from the Select Committee under date of the said 31st December, whereon our sentiments except on those points requiring our immediate attention will be conveyed to you by the succeeding ships.

4. The *Grantham* from Fort St. George (unfortunately for the Company) fell into the hands of and was taken by the French in roundings off the Cape of Good Hope on the 4th of January last where Captain Oliver came to a resolution to touch though expressly against his orders. We defer an absolute determination upon his conduct until we hear what he has to say in his defence but from what at present appears we cannot avoid observing we think him highly culpable.

5. The *Ilchester* dispatched home by you met with a violent storm in the latitude of 20 south. Her distress was so great in every respect that Captain Ward and his officers thought it absolutely necessary to put into the Cape of Good Hope to refit. This, it is true, is contrary to the orders he received but the case is widely different from that of the *Grantham* and we have good reason to believe that upon a strict examination it will fully appear to be an act of prudence and highly necessary for the preservation of the ship and cargo.

6. By the loss of the *Grantham* and the misfortune which has attended the *Ilchester*, we were until the arrival of the last and *Admiral Watson* deprived of the advices we had reason to expect the two former would have long since brought us. With respect to those by the *Grantham*, as they were all thrown over board, we were obliged to wait for duplicates before we could have a full detail of affairs upon the Choromandel Coast, having only a few letters by the way of Bombay relative to the engagements between the English and French fleets, the loss of the Fort St. David and some other military operations as to your Presidency. Having received those letters only we have already mentioned, we must therefore by this conveyance as before observed confine ourselves to some general informations.

7. Three French ships of war, the *Achilles* of 64 guns, the *Syren* of 32 and the *Zeypher* of 30, called at the Cape of Good Hope from Europe and sailed from thence to St. Helena on or about the 17th February last where they were cruizing to intercept our shipping so late as the 25th May. The *Earl of Holderness* storeship arrived at St. Helena the 13th March having narrowly escaped the enemy. She sailed from thence for the West Coast the 25th April. The *Faulkland* man-of-war appointed by the Lords of Admiralty to give convoy to our returning shipping of this season was chased by the said French ships and being drove by them from the island bore away for England on the 16th May without calling there and arrived at Portsmouth the 2nd August last. By this unhappy circumstance our ships were exposed to great hazard in falling into the enemy's hands. Their greatest security lay in the vigilance and good lookout of their respective commanders or by a providential passing them in the night, the last was certainly the case of the *Earl of Holderness*.

8. It since appears by accounts brought by the *Prince Henry's* long boat that our four early China ships, the *Prince Henry*, *Hawke*, *Osterley*, and *Tavistock*, had been chased from the 4th to the 6th May from the island by the above mentioned French cruizers, also the *Boscawen* and *Fox* on the 15th of the same month. They all fortunately getting clear made for the Bay of All Saints, the four arrived there the 24th May and the two last the 6th June, but to our misfortune the enemy's three ships imported there three days after. On being apprized thereof, we immediately had recourse to the proper measures for removing the difficulties our ships lay under from being thus locked up.

9. A long boat our Governor of St. Helena had equipped to cruize to windward of and communicate to the expected shipping the danger they were exposed to from the said three French ships was taken by them on the 16th April, having been only eight days out.

10. By the list enclosed you will be fully apprised of the times of the arrival and departure of our shipping since the date of the last advices.

11. We make no doubt you will, before this comes to hand, be informed of the several French ships, as well Company's as men-of-war, which were at the Cape of Good Hope in the course of the late season, as also of some others, which the gentlemen who were passengers on the ships *Grantham* and *Ilchester* had got information of during their stay at that place. But lest you should not, we now send you a list of them.

12. His Majesty's ministers are fully informed of the said naval force of the enemy as also of their strength by land. They likewise well know the condition of His Majesty's land force and squadron that is in India to oppose that of the French. But as the result of the applications on this important point will be more proper to be communicated by the Secret Committee, we shall therefore accordingly leave it to those gentlemen.

13. And here it may be necessary to acquaint you that the war is carried on with great vigour in all parts and it hath pleased God to bless His Majesty's arms with such good success as has induced the enemy to adopt a most desperate scheme, which they think necessary to use their utmost endeavours to carry into execution as the only method for retrieving their reputation and the

valuable acquisitions we have made from them, which is an invasion of these His Majesty's kingdom. The preparations to prevent the same as well as to annoy them in every accessible quarter has found so full an employ both for His Majesty's naval and land forces that it is found extremely difficult to raise a sufficient number of men to encrease and recruit both and the latter in particular, where many are yet wanting for the respective corps, notwithstanding every practicable method is used for the purpose.

14. It obviously follows that the Company must be greatly at a loss to raise recruits for Fort William and our other settlements. However, you may be assured we are using our utmost endeavours to raise in England, Scotland and Ireland as many as our ships can conveniently carry, and if being indefatigable in so interesting and material a measure can promise success, we flatter ourselves with meeting it.

15. The gentlemen who compose the Secret Committee this season are Peter Godfrey Esqre, Chairman of the Court of Directors, John Boyd Esqre, Deputy Chairman, Henry Crabb Boulton and Charles Cutts Esqrs, three of whom are a quorum. All instructions, orders and directions this Committee or the Committee for the time being shall at any time think proper to send must be duly observed and complied with by each and every person or persons to whom they are directed.

16. The ships taken up and to be employed in the Company's service to the several parts of India and China this season are as follows, viz.,

Ships	Tons	Commanders	Consignment
<i>Onslow</i>	499	T. Hinde	Coast & Bay
<i>Triton</i>	499	F. Harris	St. Helena & China
<i>Warwick</i>	499	J. Delawar	} Fort St. George & China
<i>Caernarvon</i>	499	N. Hutchinson	
<i>Princess Augusta</i>	499	T. Baddison	
<i>Norfolk</i>	499	B. Bonham	} Bencoolen & China
<i>Duke of Richmond</i>	499	P. Godfrey	
<i>Royal Duke</i>	499	B. Pigou	St. Helena & Coast & Bay
<i>Latham</i>	499	J. Foot	} Coast & Bay
<i>Lord Mansfield</i>	499	A. Macleod	
<i>Falmouth</i>	499	J. Dale	
<i>Prince Edward</i>	499	J. Haldane	
[<i>Neptune</i>]	499	J. Purling	} Bombay
[<i>York</i>]	499	P. Lascelles	
<i>Lord Anson</i>	499	E. Chick	
<i>Sandwich</i>	499	A. Quick	

17. We have also fitted out the *Syren* sloop, burthen about 100 tons, carrying 26 men, whereof Thomas Warner hath the command and is intended for an advice boat for the purpose, and she is accordingly now under dispatch. When this service is performed the President and Council of Bombay have a discretionary power to employ or dispose of her in such manners as they shall think most for the Company's interest.

18. Our ship the *Admiral Watson* is also preparing for sea, of whose destination you will hereafter be informed in our advices to follow this season.

19. The times intended for the departure of the several ships in the foregoing list are as follows viz.,

The *Onslow* for the Coast and Bay and the *Triton* for St. Helena and China about the end of November, the *Warwick*, *Cacmarvon* and *Princess Augusta* for Fort St. George and China, also the *Norfolk* and *Duke of Richmond* for the west coast of Sumatra and China about the middle of January, the ships *Latham*, *Lord Mansfield*, *Palmouth* and *Prince Edward* for the Coast and Bay about the middle of February and lastly the Bombay ships, new ship—Captain Purling, new ship—Captain Lascelles, *Lord Anson* and *Sandwich* in all the month of March.

20. We have earnestly recommended it to the President and Council of Fort St. George to have every thing in readiness to unliver the China ships and for forwarding them to Canton with the utmost dispatch possible to prevent the great disappointment and great expenses attending the loss of their passage. Though this may not immediately concern you, yet we think proper to mention in that if, in consequence of our last year's recommendations and what is said in the sequel of this letter, you shall furnish any treasure for the China trade, it may be remitted to Fort St. George in time.

21. You will observe by the foregoing list there are two ships consigned to Fort Marlborough and China. They are to take in for the Canton market all the pepper on hand on the West Coast, and as the sending all surplus pepper to China is a method we intend annually to pursue, we therefore give you this early notice that in future neither you nor our Presidencies of Fort St. George and Bombay are to send any ships to the West Coast to complete or take in any part of their cargoes for Europe, that our plan may not be disconcerted. We have mentioned Bombay not having sent any ship for that purpose but merely to prevent it, we do not hereby mean to discourage or prevent any ships or vessels proceeding to the West Coast with stores, necessaries and on trade, the point we aim at being only to reserve the surplus pepper for our China trade which we mention to prevent being mistaken.

22. You will observe also that we have not appointed any ship of this season to come home directly from the West Coast. What pepper, therefore, shall remain and be collected in after the departures of the before mentioned two China ships is to be reserved there for the two ships we shall send out next year. If opportunity offers we would have you give the Deputy Governor and Council at Fort Marlborough the earliest notice of our intentions and likewise that as no ship according to this plan will be dispatched directly home next year from thence, they must send us their letters, books, papers and accounts by the way of China, Bengal, Fort St. George or Bombay, as safe conveyances offer.

23. You will observe in the charterparties of the ships taken up this season a new clause with respect to the adjustment and payment for damages and goods lost or undelivered to which you are particularly to attend. By the said clause it is agreed that the amount of such damage and short delivery shall not be

paid and made good in India but shall be paid by the owners to the Company in London upon demand, upon their producing to the owners a true account of the adjustment in India of such loss or damage, although the ship shall or may happen to be lost before her arrival at or shall not return in safety to the port of London. It is hereby agreed also that the owners shall not be charged with any sum of money in respect to goods damaged either in the outward or homeward bound voyages but such as shall by the condition and appearance of the package thereof or by some other reasonable proof appear to be ship damage.

24. You are accordingly, in adjusting such accounts of damage and short delivery, to be particularly careful in describing every circumstance for our information and the owners' satisfaction and you are strictly to comply with the letter and meaning of the charterparty so amended in adjusting the damage.

25. As the owners are to be accountable to the Company for such adjusted accounts of goods, damaged and wanting, although the ship shall not return in safety to the port of London, you are, besides the account which is always to be sent by the ship concerned, to forward duplicate and triplicate thereof by the next safe conveyances, which two last are not to be copies but are to be signed by the same persons and in the same manner as the first, as they may to all intents and purposes operate as originals.

26. In the charterparty of every ship taken up this season there is a clause whereby it is agreed that the Company shall pay or allow to the owners the sum or value of £10 sterling for each passenger who shall be ordered on board by any of the Company's agents or servants from any of their settlements or places of trade in the East Indies, reconing [reckoning] or valuing the rupee, pagoda and dollar at the rate of the usual and customary exchange allowed to the Company's covenant servants in such settlements or places of trade, to be paid as aforesaid on the shipping of each such passenger. You are accordingly to comply with the said agreement by paying or causing to be paid to the commander of every ship before their departure from Bengal or any of its subordinate settlements the sum of £10 for each such passenger. But no such allowance or payment is to be made for such seamen or other persons which the Company's agents may, by virtue of an agreement in charterparty, put on board to complete the ship's complement of men, for such passengers as are also agreed in the said charterparty to be brought home without any allowance to be made to the owners for the same.

27. The owners of the shipping employed in the Company's service complaining that they have frequently been obliged to pay wages to persons who have been ordered on board as passengers only, under the pretence of their having assisted in navigating the ships, whereas in fact they have hardly touched a rope or done any of the ship's business, in order to prevent any demands of this kind in future, you are hereby to cause each passenger you order or permit to proceed to England on any of our ships to sign an instrument before he embarks that he will not demand any wages for the voyage home, and you are to forward every instrument so executed in that ship's packet on which such passenger proceeds home.

28. A new agreement is made with the owners with respect to the

demurrage of the Bombay ships as you will observe by an additional clause in their charterpartys by which in case the said ships shall not receive their last dispatches outward bound before the first day of May and by reason thereof they shall not (all due diligence being used) gain the inward passage to Bombay ; in such case the demurrage for their detention in India shall commence at the end of ten months from the time they shall have received their last dispatch for their departure from England (whether they shall have then arrived at their port of discharge in India or not) instead of the time stipulated in the former part of the charterparty for the commencement of their demurrage. It is further agreed that the owners of such ships shall be paid one shilling a day for each passenger for all the time on and after the end of six months from the day the said ships shall have received their last dispatches for their departure from England as aforesaid until the time the said ships shall actually arrive at their port of discharge in India. We have pointed out this clause for your particular notice that, should any of the Bombay ships be in the circumstances therein mentioned, you may regulate your conduct accordingly with respect to dispatching them home so as to avoid our paying more demurrage than is really necessary. You are to observe also that all such Bombay ships which receive their last dispatches from us before the first of May commence their demurrage in the usual manner in four months after their arrival at their consigned ports. With respect to allowing one shilling a day before mentioned to the passengers you are to leave the payment thereof to us, for which purpose you are to send us exact lists of all which are landed that we may adjust those accounts with the owners. This particular clause regarding the ships for Bombay is communicated to you for your information lest they should by any unforeseen accident fall under your direction, that you may act in conformity thereto.

29. The stores, provisions, and necessaries for His Majesty's naval and land forces will take up a considerable share of tonnage in our shipping this season to the amount of 800 tons and upwards. The recruits for our own forces will also require a large proportion of tonnage, to which adding what must be necessarily and at this time unavoidably engaged for the great quantity of military and naval stores for our several settlements, there will not be room for such an export on our mercantile account as we could wish. However, we shall send as much as the ships allowing for the several before mentioned items can take in and it will consist principally of woolen goods, copper, lead and iron; the two last articles will be in small quantities as they are chiefly intended for use, we mean what is intended for our Presidencies. With respect to treasure we shall, for reasons to be hereafter mentioned, send only what may be necessary for our investments in China and on the west coast of Sumatra. The intended export therefore exclusive of the several stores and necessaries before mentioned will be nearly as follows, viz.,

For the Presidency of Fort St. George :

200 bales of cloth
250 tons of copper and
40 tons of iron

For the settlement at Fort Marlborough :

to the amount of about £ in treasure, 60 tons of iron and ten tons of steel principally for sale, besides which we shall send on the ships consigned to that place sundry stores and provisions which will appear in the abstracts of the invoices we shall transmit to Fort St. George.

For the Presidency at Fort William :

near 1000 bales of cloth, 50 bales of long ells, 250 tons of copper, 40 tons of iron and 5 tons of steel.

For the Presidency at Bombay and its subordinates :

for the Bombay market 1110 bales of cloth, 275 bales of long ells, 390 tons of copper, 40 tons of iron and ten tons of steel ;
for Scinde market 168 bales of cloth and 55 bales of long ells ;
for the Gombroon and Bussorah market about 600 bales of cloth and 60 bales of long ells which sixty bales contain only 10 pieces each.

For China :

538 bales of cloth

600 " " longells

180 tons of lead and treasure to the amount of about £.....sterling.

30. Considering the hazard attending a ship's going to Madeira this war, but principally for want of tonnage for more necessary articles, we have not appointed any one of this season's ships to call at that island for wine. However, should it so happen that any of the Coast and Bay ships by being under the orders of convoy touch there, we will give directions for their taking in on the Company's account what they can conveniently stow.

31. We last season gave you our reasons for not sending treasure to any other places than China and the west coast of Sumatra ; the like reasons weigh equally with us this year as the President and Council of Bombay have already drawn upon us by the *Latham* and *Admiral Watson* to the amount of £163,000, and further draughts are expected by the next ships, all which added to their quick stock must necessarily amount to a large sum. You likewise have drawn upon us largely by the *Ilchester* and we are well assured much larger draughts are expected by the following ships, to which adding the moneys you have received and will receive from the Nabob you must certainly be in possession of a great surplus stock, notwithstanding what is said in the 225th paragraph of your letter of the 31st December 1758 by the said ship. This being the case we give you this early notice of sending no treasure this year but to Fort Marlborough and for the China trade that the necessary measures may be concerted with our other Presidencies for supplying that of Fort St. George (which will have no other recourse but the assistance from you and Bombay) with what treasure may be wanting for their investment, military and factory expences and other necessary disbursements. If you can add thereto such further supplies as may enable us to extend our China trade it will be doing the Company a most signal piece of service. We pointed out

this measure so particularly and strongly in our letters last season that we have only to recommend it to you to pursue that plan against the arrival of the China ships at Fort St. George to as large an amount as your circumstances will admit of.

32. We have continued the method adopted for two seasons past of conducting our trade to China by a council and have appointed the following ten persons to manage our affairs there the ensuing season, viz.,

Mr. Thomas Lockwood / Mr. Samuel Blount / Mr. Henry Revell / Mr. Francis Kinersley / Mr. Francis Wood / Mr. James Flint / Mr. John Searle / Mr. Mann Harner / Mr. Robert John Harrison / Mr. Alexander Fraser.

And as it is our plan always to have a Resident there you will never be at a loss for negotiating or keeping up a necessary correspondence with Canton in every instance that may be for the advantage of the Company.

33. Captain Paschaud has laid before us a list of all the artillery and military stores you are in possession of. He has also given us his sentiments upon what further quantities are wanting for your fortifications, works and other services in addition to the considerable quantity sent last season. And as we find the demand for such artillery and stores is very large, we have set about providing all that the present situation of public affairs will admit of and shall send as large a proportion by this year's shipping as they can conveniently carry; the rest must be reserved for the ships of the following season.

34. The indents for other articles as well for use as sale received and expected will in general be complied with as far as the tonnage to be engaged, the occasions for our other settlements and the time for the provision of the articles requisite will follow [allow].

35. Having laid before the General Court which was held on the 20 June last such advices as we were at that time masters of, relative to the military and naval operations upon the coast of Choromandel, especially the two engagements between the British and French fleets, they unanimously came to the following resolutions, viz.,

Resolved that the thanks of the Court be given to Vice-Admiral Pocock for his repeated eminent and signal services to this Company in the East Indies.

Resolved that the thanks of this Court be given to Rear Admiral Stevens for his good services to the Company in the East Indies.

36. The said General Court directed us to acquaint those gentlemen with the above resolutions which we accordingly now do with the greatest pleasure in separate letters by this conveyance which are to be delivered to them whenever they happen to be at your Presidency. We send in the packet copies for your information.

37. Although the loss of Fort St. David cannot avoid giving us much concern, on the other hand, from what we have learnt from the gentlemen who are come from the coast of Choromandel and by other informations, we have the satisfaction of observing that Mr. Lally's troops are so much reduced as not to give us pain for the safety of Fort St. George, whose works are represented to be in the best condition and the garrison in good spirits and numerous enough to repel the enemy, especially as it is headed by such able and good

officers as Lieutenant Colonels Lawrence and Draper. And it is with the greatest satisfaction we observe from the advices and accounts received from thence by the way of Bombay, since writing the above, that as far as they relate [?] affairs, our apprehensions had been well grounded in that the enemy's schemes had been defeated with great bravery and that the supply of men from our China ships had enabled their troops to take the field.

38. It gives us great pleasure to observe that the good terms you were upon with the Nabob and the profound peace in Bengal has afforded you an opportunity of making a diversion by an expedition to Golcondah. We flatter ourselves it has proved a seasonable and successful one and be the means not only of lessening the influence and power of the French in those parts but greatly distressing them, especially as the country powers seem with good reason to be heartily tired of their conduct and behaviour. The only thing that gives us any concern is the defenceless condition our settlements in Bengal were in on the departure of the troops. But as we make no doubt this point was maturely considered, we hope your care has prevented any ill consequences resulting therefrom.

39. Although by the loss of the *Grantham* packet we are deprived of the proceedings and sentiments in consultation of the President and Council of Fort St. George upon Mr. Robert Orme's conduct, we have had sufficient information to convince us that it has been extremely bad. We are acquainted instead of coming forward for England from the Cape he proceeds to the French Islands on board one of their ships. What his name [sic] and designs may be in this step we are at a loss to guess, but upon the whole we are satisfied he is a very unfit person to continue in India. If, therefore, he should come to Bengal or any where within your jurisdiction, you are hereby positively ordered to send him to England by the first conveyance and signify these our orders to the other Presidencies for their strict compliance therewith.

40. Observing that so many gentlemen of superior stations on your establishment have resigned our service, and that others are preparing to leave it, we have thought it expedient to engage some persons well experienced in business in some measure to supply that defect and have accordingly appointed them factors to be ranked under our Presidency at Fort William in the following order, viz.,

John Read / Peter Downes / James Philip Lyon / Walton Stevens / Francis Hare / Joseph Jey Kell / John Wood / Henry Hall / William Boddle and M. Bolts.

And we do appoint them to take their station on the list next under Mr. Thomas French and that such their rank be constantly observed by their being at no time hereafter superseded by any one who does now or shall stand below them without our express directions in that behalf.

41. Messrs Read, Lyon, Wood, Hall and Bolts will proceed on the ships of this season and as the others are in India the covenants to be executed by them will be transmitted in the packets by the ships consigned to Bengal.

42. We have also entertained Mr. Henry Huchinson, Gideon Ferrand, William Round, Benjamin Ashwood, William Lambert, Marmaduke Collins,

and James Ashburner to be ranked as writers on your establishment in this order and they will proceed to their stations accordingly on the ships of this season designed for Bengal.

43. The merit and abilities of Captain Carnac have been represented to us in so high a light as we think proper that upon the receipt of this letter he be appointed our Major upon the Bengal establishment—his commission will go by our next ships—[on] the terms and with the appointments mentioned in the 118th paragraph¹ of our letter of the 23rd March last on our confirming that post on Mr. Polier.

44. As several circumstances have occasioned an alteration of the members whom we have directed should compose the Select Committee, we do now appoint that it do consist of Colonel Clive, if on the spot, or the President for the time being, Colonel Eyre Coote, Messrs Charles Manningham and William Frankland, if they are on the spot, Captain James Barton and Mr. P. Amyatt.

45. Mr. John Robinson, appointed a factor at Bencoolen, now takes his passage *via* Bengal where, if he chooses to reside as a free merchant, he has our permission, but to signify to you our intentions, or depart by the first conveyances that offer from Bengal to Bencoolen.

46. As it may be inconvenient to Mr. Walton Stevens (nominated a factor on your establishment) to move directly from Madras he has our permission for remaining there some time to settle his affairs.

47. We have entertained John Eyres, Daniel Fabart, William Fuller, Isaac Humphreys and James Kelly cadets for Bengal to rank in the foregoing order next to such who went last season and to succeed as ensigns in our military as vacancies shall happen therein. They all proceed on the ship *Onslow*.

48. Mr. William Ellis appointed of Council at Fort William by our letter of the 23rd March now proceeds to his seat at your Board on the ship *Onslow*. His commission in the military line of course is vacated, nor is he to be allowed any pay or other consideration from his leaving Bengal. But if any gentleman had a right to such indulgence it certainly is Mr. Ellis who is forced to England by an accident that highly merited our favor.

49. We are astonished at the allowances to Mr. Macguire and Fenwick who were suffered by you to come to England upon their private affairs and therefore we positively order they refund the sums you paid them from the departure to the return to their station. And now we are upon the subject, we shall tell you that unless very good reasons are assigned we will in future allow neither rank or standing to our civil or military servants that may return with your permission.

50. We have the satisfaction of informing you that on the 6th instant, since the former part of this letter was written, our ships *Worcester*, *Prince George*, *Bombay Castle*, and *True Britton* arrived safely at Kinsale. They sailed from St. Helena 20 August last and left no ship there.

51. We did not intend by this dispatch to meddle with the succession, but considering the great number of our servants returning with and without due notice, reflecting also upon the uncertainty of our next ships' departure in

proper time from various incidents that may possibly occur, we cannot delay a matter of such infinite importance to our interest.

52. We, therefore, nominate and appoint Henry Vansittart² Esqre to be our President and Governor at Bengal on the departure of Colonel Clive and our Council, viz.,

Lieut. Colonel Eyre Coote

Peter Amyat third and in case of the death of Mr. Vansittart to succeed to the Government.

Major John Carnac in military affairs only

William Ellis

William Brightwell Sumner

James Barton

John Zepheniah Holwell

William Macguire

Charles Stafford Playdell

Luke Scrafton

Stanlake Batson.

And we direct that you instantly dispatch an express to Madras noticing to the Governor and Council these our orders in favor of Mr. Vansittart as we do ourselves by this conveyance.

53. But in case of Colonel Clive's remaining in the Government of Bengal on the receipt hereof, then we direct that Mr. Vansittart do take place as third next to Colonel Coote, Major Carnac to be fourth, Mr. Amyatt fifth, and the others of the above Council to rank under the last named gentleman in the above successive order.

We are,

Your loving friends,

G. Steevens / C. Baron / W. Thornton / F. Barrington / R. Seward / J. Bosanquet / J. Raymond / E. Pigou / S. Harrison / T. Waters / P. Godfrey / J. Boyd / H. Boulton / C. Cutts / J. Harrison / G. Dudley / J. Browne / G. Rooke / B. Walton / H. Hadley / R. Smith.

London, 23rd November 1759.

LETTER DATED 7 DECEMBER 1759¹

Dispersal by Hawke of French fleet planning to invade England.

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1. We wrote last to you under date of the 23rd ultimo by our snow *Syren* dispatched the day following and now remaining at Spithead in consequence only of the opinion of the Lords of the Admiralty. Duplicate of that letter is enclosed herewith and we are to acknowledge the receipt of your General Letter and several addresses of the 29th January, 8th February and 5th and 8th of March last with two letters of Captain James Barton of the 8th February and 5th of March by the ships *Worcester* and *Prince George*.

2. For the particulars of the consignments to your Presidency of sundry goods, merchandize, and stores by this ship the *Onslow* you are referred to the accompanying invoice and bill of lading.

3. The three French cruizers, which we informed you had locked up our returning China ships in the Bay of All Saints, arrived at Brest the beginning of November, having left the Bay and our six ships there about the middle of August last.

4. We gave you in our last letter some account of the state of public affairs and can now with the greatest pleasure further acquaint you of the additional success His Majesty's arms have been crowned with in the defeat and dispersion by the British squadron under Sir Edward Hawke of the enemy's grand fleet from Brest commanded by the Marquis Conflans composed of almost all their ships at that time fit for sea and designed to cover their rash and desperate attempt of an invasion of these kingdoms which this important and decisive victory must have quashed and will thereby timely give His Majesty's naval forces a greater scope to pursue other national objects and it is hoped at length compel the enemy to submit to moderate and equitable terms of peace, se[c]ing, besides various other losses and repulses, their marine, now reduced to a very low ebb, has in many actions met with such signal conquest and destruction from the superior conduct and spirit of His Majesty's officers and forces.

You are, however, to continue to be vigilant and active in your own defence and annoyance of the enemy as we have contributed and are employing our utmost efforts for your support therein.

5. At the earnest entreaty of the friends of Mr. Thomas Lane, a writer at Madras, we have permitted him to remove to Bengal, and he is to be placed in rank upon your establishment agreeable to the time he commences as writer at the former place.

6. We have appointed George Samuel Fryer a cadet in our forces on the Bengal establishment on the usual terms and to take his rank next under the last of the three cadets advised to be entertained in our letter dated the 23rd ultimo.

We are,
Your loving friends,

J. Harrison / G. Rooke / R. Smith / J. Raymond / J. Bosanquet / F. Pigou /
T. Waters / C. Baron / S. Harrison / R. Gildard / B. Walton / P. Godfrey / J.
Boyd / H. Boulton / C. Cutts / H. Hadley / R. Seward / W. Thornton / G.
Dudley / F. Barrington / J. Browne / G. Stevens.

London, 7th December 1759.

LETTERS TO COURT

LETTER DATED 8 JANUARY 1757

Recapture of Calcutta by Watson—Its transfer to President and Council.

TO the Hon'ble the Secret Committee for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. As we deem it of the utmost importance to the Company to transmit the advice of our re-establishment by every channel in our power, we have desired the gentlemen at Fort St. George to forward this packet *via* Bussorah, if there is any conveyance under dispatch from thence to the Gulph of Persia, otherwise to send it under cover to the President and Council of Bombay to be forwarded to Europe.

2. We have now the pleasure to inform you, Hon'ble Sirs, that Fort William was retaken by Admiral Watson on the 2nd instant, and the next day delivered up by him to your President and Council with the guns, military stores and effects, publick and private, for the benefit and on the behalf of the proprietors. In your warehouse was found a considerable quantity of export goods, with which we purpose to dispatch home the *Delawar* some time this month if possible. We shall likewise endeavour to return the *Walpole* and *Marlbro'* to Fort St. George with as much saltpetre as we can procure to be dispatched home from thence.

3. That this important intelligence may reach you as early as possible, we are preparing the *Syreen* sloop to proceed to England with it and hope to get her away from hence in eight or ten days. By her and the *Delawar* we shall address you more particularly and remain with the greatest respect.

Hon'ble Sirs,

Your most faithful and most obedient humble servants,

Roger Drake Junr./Wm. Watts/James Killpatrick/Richd. Becher/J. Z. Holwell.

Fort William, 8th January 1757.

LETTER DATED 25 JANUARY 1757

Kilpatrick's request for restoration of old salary and a brevetship.

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for the Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours,

1. In my letters from Fulta of August the 15th and September the 19th 1756, I endeavoured to represent to you in [as] few words as possible the cruel situation your affairs were then in [in] this part of India. I have now the pleasure to congratulate Your Honours on the agreeable change which has since happened and on the prospect there now is of soon seeing every thing resettled.

2. I will refer Your Honours to Colonel Clive for returns and particulars in all your military affairs, as he has here now the chief command and has undertaken to inform you of every thing.

3. What was done since I last had the honour of writing to you, and before the arrival of the squadron, was little more than in keeping up a correspondence with some principal people in the country which answered almost all our intentions in gaining of time and having provisions supplied to us while we were obliged to remain inactive. But of this, with the particulars of all our transactions, you will have an exact account in the General Letters. Your Honours are to be the sole judges of our conduct, and I am hopeful you won't find that we have acted amiss. One thing which I am sure of is that many of your servants here seem to have your interest truly at heart and would do to the utmost of their power to promote it. I can answer for myself at least, as I am persuaded that no man in this way could go further; and I am also well convinced, so far as I am able to judge from what I have yet seen, that there are others, and in particular Your Hon'ble President here, who is perfectly attached to your interest.

4. I received the commission you were pleased to honour me with, as a very great mark of your favour and esteem and shall do every thing in my power to make you ever thing [think] that you have not bestowed it unworthily, though I must own it gives me some concern to observe that you should have thought proper so much more to have lessened my allowances than what you had ever done to any former Major in Bengal, so that you have left me little more than barely my Major's pay which is but five shillings a day more than that of a private captain, though I have to support the rank [rank] of third in Council and Commander of the Bengal troops.

5. I am not greatly interested nor desirous of extraordinary allowances particularly at a time like this; but what has been given to others in the same station before me, I think, in some measure, is but my right and due, as I hope you will never find that I have done or will do less for your service than any whom you have formerly employed and I can assure Your Honours that the £250 which I still hope you will order to be paid me is not any extraordinary sum for one who would support as he ought the character of the station in which you have placed me, for you must be very sensible that it is entirely out of my way to do anything in trade, or to enjoy any post which might bring me any other advantages, as all the civil councillors can, so that I hope Your Honours will be pleased to consider of this as also of the request which I made to you in my last concerning getting me a brevet from His Majesty, which may likewise prove for the benefit of your service if you can think that from my experience in the country and my attachment to your interest I might some time or other be of more use to you in leaving

the command, than one of equal rank [rank] in His Majesty's service without those advantages.

6. I have suffered greatly in my health since I last had the honour of addressing you by fatigues and bad accommodation which has affected my wounds so much that the doctors have strongly advised my going home. However, while I am at all able I am resolved not to leave the country at a time like this, though I thought it necessary to let Your Honours know so much, least I should be obliged to quit before even I can be honoured with an answer to this; which I will certainly wait for if my health will permit. Having the honour to be with the greatest respect and sincerest attachment,

May it please Your Honours,
Your Honours' most obedient and most humble servant,
James Killpatrick.

Camp near Fort William, 25th January 1757.

P.S.—Though I mentioned to Your Honours in the above that Collonel Clive would send you general returns of the whole, yet I think it my duty also to send particular returns of the Bengal troops, which I here now have the honour to enclose you being as above.

3

LETTER DATED 26 JANUARY. 1757

Arrival of forces under Watson and Clive—Watson's demand for reparations from Nawab—Capture and destruction of Hooghly—Proposal of treaty of neutrality with the French—Proposals for strengthening Fort William—Fort William Council's protest to Fort St. George Council against grant to Clive of certain powers—Clive's refusal to surrender powers to Fort William Council.

TO the Hon'ble the Seeret Committee for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. Copy of our letter transmitted under cover to the President and Council of Fort St. George to be forwarded *via* Bussorah [is] enclosed. We shall, in this address, give you a summary account of our proceedings since our appointment by the *Walpole's* packet.

2. By that ship we received a letter from the Select Committee of Fort St. George importing the following particulars: that His Majesty's squadron and the Company's ships *Marlbro'* and *Walpole* were then upon the point of sailing for Ballasore road, that they had embarked on them 528 military; all officers included, 109 of the train and 940 seepoys under the command of Robert Clive Esqre, that they had sent 400,000 rupees on the above ships for

the expences of the expedition consigned to Col. Clive, that they had directed him to apply to us for plans of a treaty to be made with the Nabob and of military operations, but had empowered him to deviate from the whole or part of such plans if he thought them inconsistent with the Company's interest, and that they had directed him, in case they should recall him, to return with his troops leaving as many as he may judge sufficient for the defence of Calcutta.

3. The *Protector* and *Lapwing* brought us another supply of seepoys.

4. Upon the arrival of Admiral Watson and Col. Clive we judged it proper and necessary to give them an invitation to our Committee. And accordingly our consultations while at Fulta were always held on board the *Kent*, particular regard being paid to Mr. Watson's advice, whose attachment to the Company's interest we have since experienced.

5. Esteeming it necessary previously to request of Mr. Watson the assistance of his squadron to retake Fort William and oblige the Suba to make us reparation for our losses and injuries, we did so on the 16th December and received a handsome assurance of the Admiral of doing all in his power for the Company's benefit, as far as was consistent with the safety of His Majesty's ships.

6. A letter was then wrote to the Nabob from the Admiral implying his design of coming here to re-establish the Company and procure restitution of their losses, which it was hoped the Nabob would be inclinable to grant. This letter was wrote with intention to amuse him and prevent his reinforcing the garrison at Calcutta during the delay of the squadron at Fulta account of the spring tides. Hitherto no answer has been received to that letter though we are assured it was delivered.

7. The time of moving from Fulta with the success of the squadron have already been mentioned, as well as the publication of our manifesto and declaration of war. Upon our request Admiral Watson has likewise declared war against the Suba on His Majesty's part.

8. One of the first steps we took after our return was to write to the zemindars of the neighbouring *pergunnahs* to pay the rents and revenues of their respective districts into our treasury on pain of having their country destroyed in case of refusal. Several of them have sent their *vackells* and promised obedience to our orders; by this means we have hopes of easing the Company considerably in the charges of the operations it may be expedient to carry on against the Suba.

9. The capture and destruction of Hughly was esteemed so essential to strike a terror in the Suba's troops and encourage any malcontents to declare in our favour, that the *Bridgwater* and *Kings Fisher* with a considerable detachment of land forces were sent up that expedition, which has been executed with the loss of but few men of our side, but it is reported that a great number of the enemy have been slain. The fort was blown up by Major Killpatrick and the town, *gunge* etc., burnt to ashes. This we have reason to believe has had the desired effect and thrown the country into a vast consternation. We have withdrawn our troops and have encamped our military seepoys etc., upon a plain near Dumdumma.

10. Our intelligence from all quarters agreeing that the Nabob is on his march this way with a large army, we have wrote the Select Committee at Bombay and Fort St. George and enforced the necessity of supplying us with troops to compleat our re-establishment and procure reparation for our losses, damages and charges.

11. The French settled at Chandernagore having made proposals to Admiral Watson for a neutrality within the Ganges which the Admiral had not accepted, we thought it our duty (upon receiving private advice from Mr. Boddam of His Majesty's declaration of war) to represent the benefit a treaty of neutrality would be of to the Company and community by taking away any pretence for a junction of that nation with the Nabob—a junction which would prove very detrimental to our measures, if permitted to take place. Mr. Watson was accordingly addressed to upon that subject. A few days after the Admiral made us the three following propositions regarding the French settled here and requested our sentiments, which of the three would be the most eligible for the interest of the Company in our present circumstances. The first was "for a simple treaty of neutrality with the French within the Ganges and if so, when to be concluded, whether now or some time before his departure. The second for a treaty of neutrality joined with a league offensive and defensive against the Suba, if it could be effected; if not, a defensive league only." The last for acting against the French openly by sea and land and using our whole force to exterminate them totally out of these provinces.

12. These propositions were duly weighed by us and the result of our deliberation was that a treaty of simple neutrality with the French within the Ganges to continue during the course of the present war subsisting between the Crown of Great Britain and French was to be preferred to the other two propositions and that the sooner such a treaty was concluded the better. This opinion we transmitted in writing to the Admiral.

13. Our reasons for this opinion were chiefly these: by concluding such a treaty of neutrality, we prevented their assisting the Suba in any shape against us, secured our own settlement (at present but ill-prepared to withstand an European enemy) from any apprehensions of it's being attacked by them, and were thereby left at liberty to prosecute the war against the Nabob with more vigour. It will likewise give the settlement an opportunity of recovering it's trade should we be able shortly to put an end to the troubles.

14. By a letter of the 13th November from the Select Committee at Fort St. George we expect to be reinforced from Bombay with 500 men. Upon the arrival of their troops and those embarked on the *Cumberland* we hope to be enabled to act in the field and if successful in one decisive battle to end these troubles upon terms both honorable and advantageous to the Company in a short time. That the Nabob is uneasy and apprehensive of the consequences of the war he has brought upon himself, we have good reason to believe from a letter of Coja Wazced's to Col. Clive and the mediation they have desired the French deputies in order to accommodate matters. The demands we verbally made the French deputies were in substance: to have restitution for our losses and satisfaction for the damages and charges sustained in consequence of the Suba's violence, to have permission to erect such fortifications as we might think proper in whatever part of the

country we chuse to settle a factory, and to be allowed a mint in Calcutta. These demands were forwarded by the French to Coja Wazced by whose answer there is great room to imagine there will be little difficulty made to any of the articles except the mint, and we flatter ourselves that we shall not only compel the Nabob to make restitution and reparation for the private and public losses sustained by the Europeans, but likewise enact a more punctual obedience to the tenour of our *phirmaund* and obtain such an increase of our revenues and such immunities for our commerce as to render this settlement more beneficial to the Company than it has been since it's first establishment.

15. To preserve such an acquisition of priviledges and indulgences as we may be enabled to make the Suba consent to and to secure for trade in these dominions, it will be essentially necessary to erect a strong fortification and maintain a respectable military force, a proportion of which charge may be borne by the inhabitants. For this purpose it will be proper to assess every black merchant or resident within our bounds according to his abilities for the support and expence of a body of troops consisting of Europeans and seepoys, and to raise the ground rent of such houses as are situated within the fortifications for the disbursement of that charge. Both of these methods we imagine will be readily assented to by the Europeans and natives, will enable the Company to keep the Government within bounds at an easy expence and put an end to the continual extortions and venal practices of the Durbar. Terms so beneficial and desirable we doubt not will be highly satisfactory. We must therefore recommend it to you, Hon'ble Sirs, to send us out an able engineer to plan a strong and regular fortification and give us permission to execute that plan immediately. We must likewise repeat that it will be proper to keep up a large military force and request you will send us out by the first opportunity a considerable body of disciplined troops, if possible, with positive orders to the gentlemen at Madrass not to detain them upon that coast on any account whatever.

16. Military stores of all kinds will be wanted with good artillery officers, which company is now under the command of Major Killpatrick.

17. As it would be imprudent to risque a second capture of the settlement in case we should be unsuccessful in the field, we are making the present fort as defensible as we can by digging a ditch 30 feet wide round the wall, levelling the houses within . . . paces round and throwing up a glacis with the dirt of the ditch and the rubbish of the houses. These works will amount to a trifle and we imagine secure us from further attempts of the Government. We purpose likewise to detain the *Protector* in the river and have wrote to Mr. Bouchier and his Council for another ship of force to remain here till we are better settled. We have likewise ordered 20,000 maunds of rice and provisions of all kinds to be laid in by the Buxy.

18. The quick arrival of the troops from Bombay and those on the *Cumberland* may be of such importance to our affairs, that we have dispatched boats and small craft to Ingellie to bring them up immediately on their importing.

19. Having recited a detail of our transactions we are next to request your permission to make some observations on the extraordinary conduct of

the Select Committee at Fort St. George. In the course of the expedition they have set on foot to recover your possessions, estates, rights and priviledges in Bengall, those gentlemen have authorized and empowered Col. Clive to act as Commander in Chief of the land forces to be employed on this expedition. They have given him an independant power to pursue such plans of military operations and to make such treaties of peace as he may think fit, in case he differs in his opinion from us. They have consigned singly to him a sum of Rs. 400,000 with all the military stores, have enjoined him to return upon being recalled with his troops leaving only as many behind as he may judge sufficient for the defence of Calcutta and have appointed a Pay Master and Commissary of the troops.

20. The authority they have assumed of appointing Col. Clive Commander in Chief of the forces in Bengal (notwithstanding they acknowledge us as the Governor and Council here and in direct opposition to the tenour of the commission we have received this season) is so unwarrantable that we cannot avoid taking notice of it as an encroachment upon the rights and trust invested in us by our employers.

21. Their motive for empowering Col. Clive to execute whatever plans of military operations he may judge most efficacious to compel the Suba to terms and to conclude such treaties as he may think most for the Company's interest, is so extremely weak and insufficient that we have been obliged to require of Col. Clive to comply with and follow all orders he may receive from this Committee respecting any plans of military operations and on no account to conclude any treaty of peace or accommodation without our assent and approbation. We doubt not, Hon'ble Sirs, you will concur with us in thinking it strange that a greater confidence should be put in a single person (totally unacquainted with the nature of the country and government) for prosecuting and finishing these disputes than in us the Governor and Council established here by the Hon'ble Company. As we are of opinion this proceeding of your servants at Madrass may prove a prejudice rather than benefit to the Company's affairs should Col. Clive deviate from our directions, we have protested against any miscarriages that may happen by lodging such an extravagant power in the Colonel.

22. Consigning so large a sum of money as 400,000 rupees and all the military stores singly to Col. Clive, without subjecting his, the Pay Master's or Commissary's accounts to any inspection or controul of our Board, is a latitude the Company have not even conferred upon their Governor and Council at this place. Whether they are warranted for such an extraordinary step or not, you are the best judges, Hon'ble Sirs. We can only say, it is a treatment very unhandsome and diffident, and what we are not conscious of having merited from those gentlemen.

23. Their orders to Col. Clive to return with his troops in case of being recalled, and submitting to his judgment what number of men may be necessary for our defence, is likewise partial and void of regard to the Company's interest. How important a re-establishment in these provinces must be to our employers they cannot be ignorant. To leave that unfinished, to forego the hopes of obtaining reparation for your heavy losses and satisfaction for the charges incurred on this occasion, merely because the French

may attack their possessions on that coast, is in our opinion far from consistent with the true interest of the Company. We must also remark that though they have been pleased to give Col. Clive these directions, the number of troops sent under his command with those which arrived with Major Killpatrick do not exceed, if equal, the number of recruits designed for this Presidency and detained on their coast.

24. We have required of Col. Clive to recede from the independant power given him by the Select Committee at Fort St. George and subject himself to the orders of this Presidency; but he has refused to surrender that authority. We must leave it to you, Hon'ble Sirs, to take proper notice of so injurious a conduct in your servants on the Coast.

25. Since writing thus far the Admiral has received an answer from the Nalob to his letter and has wrote another to desire he would listen to the proposals he would receive from us.

26. Mr. Holwell, who is one of our Committee, being on his departure for England on this sloop by reason of his health, we have given the care of these advices to his charge, and are with the greatest respect,

Hon'ble Sirs,

Your most faithfull and most obedient humble servants,

Roger Drake Junr. / Richd. Becher.

Fort William, 26th January 1757.

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LETTER DATED 30 JANUARY 1757

Watts' reply to Holwell's charges—His recommendatory letters respecting Raj Ballabh's son and family—His failure to prevent Narain Das's representation to the Nawab—Weak position of the garrison at Kasimbazar when besieged by Nawab—Counter-charges against Holwell—Nawab harasses the English for money.

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours,

1. Mr. Holwell in his address to Your Honours having in many parts of his letter arraigned my conduct, self-defence obliges me to reply to the several particulars and to point out where he has been mistaken.

2. In the 4th paragraph of his letter, he relates a very plausible story of Rajabullub's¹ being seized on his master Newagees Mahomed Cawn's² death and during the life of Alliverdi Cawn³ and was by Surajud Doulet imprisoned, who by severe methods endeavoured to force a confession and discovery of Newagees Mahmud Cawn's riches, and then launches out into a panygerick on the faithfullness of Rajabullub to his deceased master. Where Mr. Holwell

picked up this piece of intelligence I am at a loss to know, for neither I or, I believe, any of the gentlemen of Cossimbuzar ever heard of his being imprisoned till after the old Nabob's death. On the contrary, Rajabullub was daily employed in giving an account of Newangees Mahmud Cawn's riches to the old Nabob and never received any check till about a few days before he died when, on the information of Surajud Doulah of Newangees Mahmud Cawn's Begum's or wife's raising for us, he was sent for and spoke to severely, on which he returned to his mistress at Mootah Jail, where she was raising forces, as much to preserve the life of her gallant Meir Nusserally² as her riches, which she expected will be seized on her father's death. Mr. Holwell then proceeds and argues extremely well for Rajabullub, after which he ventures to assert upon memory alone what I can, with the same or more certainty, affirm I never wrote; what I wrote, I can venture to say, was only to the following purport vizt., to Mr. Manningham: "that Rajabullub's son's³ wife was taken ill on her way to Jaggernaut⁴; therefore, Rajabullub desired she might be admitted into Calcutta for a month till she was brought to bed as she was ready to lie in. I had complied with his intercession to write to the Governor, as Rajabullub had been usefull to us and might be more so." What I wrote to the Governour was enclosed under a flying seal to Mr. Manningham, and was to the same purport; only the article of her being ready to lie in was omitted. But I, in the most solemn manner, declare that I never wrote to supply her with boats, neither did I know till about the time of the whole [old] Suba's death, that ever Rajabullub's son or wealth were admitted into Calcutta. If I had been acquainted with that I should have been immediately alarmed, and the moment I suspected any ill consequences might attend the Governour's keeping Rajabullub's son or wealth in Calcutta, I did, as Mr. Holwell mentions, desire the Governour to turn them out of the place. I never heard from the more understanding people about the *Durbar* that Newangees Mahmud Cawn's Begum would ever get the better and the gentlemen of Cossimbuzar were under so little apprehensions of any alteration in the Government by her means that I do not remember we ever mentioned the affairs to Calcutta; therefore I cannot conceive from what quarter Mr. Holwell could get this intelligence.

3. With regard to Mr. Holwell's 5th paragraph of his letter, I acknowledge to have wrote to the purport he mentions, but what salutary end it could answer affronting so considerable a person as Narain Sing after knowing and receiving him with respect, and refusing the Nabob's letter which demanded Kissendass and his wealth, I cannot conceive, without there were some hidden causes and motives which do not appear at present. The moment I was acquainted with the affair, I dreaded the consequences of affronting so considerable a servant of a young man intoxicated with power and wealth, and who expected an implicit obedience to his will. I, therefore, immediately applied to all the great men about the Nabob to prevent Narain Sing's complaining, and the affair was seemingly hushed up, but possibly when the Nabob marched to Rajamann where he received the Governour's letter which so much incensed him, Narain Sing, who was then with him, might take the opportunity to represent his own ill-treatment. I must here remark that when Mr. Holwell found himself embarrassed how to act, I am surprised he should not propose to the Governor the asking the advice and assistance

of the rest of the Council. Why they did not or why they assumed a power of acting by themselves, a power no ways delegated to them, must appear extraordinary to every impartial judge. I must here again observe that the utmost efforts of Newaugees Mahmud Cawn's Begum was to preserve her gallant and wealth; neither was it ever imagined that a loose, abandoned, old woman would be able to stand in competition for the Government with Surageet Doulet.

4. The 7th paragraph of Mr. Holwell's letter requires no answer. In the 8th he mentions that the taking of Gayree^s by His Majesty's squadron, and the naval strength of the English in India, was the occasion of much speculation at the *Durbar*. This, tho' I resided at Cossimbuzar and had constant intercourse with the most considerable *Durbar* officers, I never heard of, and I am confident from the many conversations I have had with them, that scarce any but a few merchants knew who Angria⁹ was and even those who had heard of his name mentioned him with the utmost contempt as a needy robber. I, likewise, never heard that our having sixteen ships of war and a strong land force coming to Bengal ever gained belief at the *Durbar*, and any person who knows the nature of these eastern people, how incurious and indolent they are, must be sensible how little they trouble themselves with occurrences and affairs that happen beyond their own province.

5. In answer to the 9th, 10th and 11th paragraphs, I must say it might have been possibly better if we had answered the Nabob's *perwannah* as politely as the French did.

6. With regard to the letters mentioned in the 12th paragraph, few reached us; that in relation to enquiring of the Nabob's ministers whether his intentions were to extort a sum of money from us never did.

7. The letter of the 1st of June mentions not Roydulub, one of the Nabob's ministers, but only a jemmadar of his, who might very probably be mistaken in his intelligence. However, in the circumstances we were in, we thought it incumbent on us to transmit every particular we heard.

8. The small resistance they were able to make in Calcutta, where their numbers and all kinds of military stores were above ten times more than that what we had, besides the advantage of shipping to retire to, proves, I think, evidently how greatly the five captains were mistaken in their opinion of the defencibleness of Cossimbuzar. Our whole garrison, according to our muster rolls, consisted of only 51 or 52 men, six of which were sick, and of the remainder there were not above twenty Europeans and those most undisciplined Dutchmen, the rest being topasses on whom little or no dependance could be put. With this force, we had orders to resist an army of thirty thousand men who had possession of all the houses round us, which commanded the bastions; and after we could defend the place no longer, we were to make the best retreat in our power, a retreat of above a hundred miles over land, through an enemy's country, and in the face of so large an army, for neither boats or *dandies* could we expect to procure in those circumstances or, if we could, the river was too shallow to proceed down against so large a force, it being in many places not above two feet deep. This letter we never received; if we had, we should have submitted to the directions there given, notwithstanding the apparent preposterousness of them.

9. In Mr. Collet's and my letter to Your Honours, I have given my reasons for going out of the factory which was by the advice and consent of all the gentlemen of the factory and officer of the garrison; and when I found myself detained in camp, and the surgeon returned to the factory, I told him that though I did not know what might be the consequences, yet I did not think it advisable for Messrs Collet and Batson to quit the factory. But the message not being delivered, they came to camp when I told them the message I had sent, and that I was sorry to see them there. Mr. Holwell then proceeds and wishes for our sakes, and the honour of our country, that we may be able to justify our conduct in not fighting, in answer to which I must ask Mr. Holwell, why he did not continue to defend the factory when at the time of the delivering of it up he had five times the number of men we had at Cossimbuzar. I term it delivering of it up, from the account I received from Mr. George Gray, Junior, a young gentleman of sense and spirit, who showed his account to many of his fellow sufferers who were then in the French hospital at Chanderanagore, and who allowed the account to be just; and I declare solemnly I never once heard of the betraying of the back gate to the enemy though there were above 80 men of different degrees in the French hospital (till Mr. Holwell returned from Muxadavad who then told that story). Mr. Gray's etc., account of the affair is as follows—"Soon about noon the Governor and Council thought proper to write to the Nabob and *Duan* demanding a truce and an accommodation but had no answer returned. About 4 o'clock the enemy called out to us not to fire, upon which the Governour showed a flag of truce, and gave orders for us not to fire; upon which the enemy in vast numbers came under the walls and at once set fire to the windows which were stopt up with cotton hales, began to break open the fort gate, and scaled our walls on all sides. This put us into the utmost confusion. Some rushed out at the gate towards the river and others were surrounded by the Moors who showed them signs of quarter upon which they delivered themselves up". To this I must here add that one Corporal Angel assured me that when the Moors in numbers came under the walls he had his match ready to fire a flank gun on them by which he must have destroyed many. But Mr Holwell took the match out of his hand and extinguished it in a tub of water. This is a circumstance I should never have thought of mentioning had not Mr. Holwell laboured so much to arraign my conduct by artfully endeavouring to prove that one day's defence of Cossimbuzar might have saved Calcutta; and in order to do this, he calls the heavens to his assistance and makes it rainy, dirty weather for several days after the taking of the place. To this I answer, and appeal to every inhabitant of Calcutta for the truth of what I assert, that except one shower on the 2nd night after the place was taken it was in general clear and dry weather for many days, I think to the beginning of July.

10. In answer to the last part of the 16th paragraph, I am informed from some of the gentlemen that suffered at Cossimbuzar that their ill-treatment was owing entirely to the officer shooting himself which made the Moors apprehend if they were left free they might make some desperate attempt. Mr. Holwell's laboured endeavours through 5 sheets of paper to set my conduct in the worst point of light might induce me to retaliate on him the same method of reasoning, by saying if he had defended Fort William to the last extremity, not hoisted the flag of truce which the Moors might take for a

notice has been given for all persons who have claims to any effects left in the fort or town to send in their demands to Sub-Accountant who has our orders to deliver it upon a receipt being given by the claimant to be responsible for the said effects or their amount, in case it should be contested and awarded to another.

14. The inconveniences we experienced at the siege of Calcutta from the prodigious numbers of Portuguese women, who were admitted for security into the Fort, the very little or no service which that race of people are of to the settlement, added to the prospect we had of a war with France (in which case we had reason to suppose they would refuse to take up arms against an enemy of their own religion, should we be attacked, induced us upon our return to interdict the publick exercise of the Roman Catholick religion, and to forbid the residence of their priests in our bounds.

15. Our chaplains having both demised, Mr. Gervas Bellamy in the Black Hole, and Mr. Robert Mapletoft of a fever at Fulta, we have appointed the Reverend Mr. Cobbe our chaplain till your pleasure is known, with the usual salary and allowances annexed to that benefice. He was chaplain to the *Kent*, which station he has quitted to serve Your Honours, and he appears to us very worthy of your favour.

16. We were under a necessity during our stay at Fulta to dispose of the bullion to Mr. Bisdom' sent us by the President and Council of Fort St. George at a low rate to procure rupees for our current expences. But we can assure Your Honours, we used our utmost endeavours to obtain a higher price which the unsettled face of things made impracticable.

17. Most of the military and artillery officers upon our establishment being dead, several promotions were made by us, for the particulars of which we beg leave to refer Your Honours to our consultations, wherein you will observe Mr. Dugald Campbell had a captain's commission granted him, in consequence of your recommendation of that gentleman. He was since unfortunately killed at the taking of Buz Budgea. We have given the Company vacant by his death to John Fraiser [Fraser] Esqr.

18. The ships freighted for your service were all ordered to be unloaded and will be discharged as soon as that is finished.

19. The gentlemen at Bombay have indented for 500 tons of saltpetre and the Governour and Council of Fort St. George have wrote for the *Walpole* and *Marlbro'* to be returned from hence with as large a quantity of that article as we can procure. To do this, and for our current expences, they have made us a consignment of only 88,000 rupees out of the remittance they have received this season for the use of our Presidency. This proceeding of your servants upon the Choromandel Coast will render it difficult for us to comply with the above mentioned indents. We shall endeavour, nevertheless, to purchase as much saltpetre as we can, by giving interest notes for the amount, and have wrote in the most pressing manner to Mr. Pigot and his Council for a speedy supply of money, without which it will be impossible either to attempt the provision of an investment the ensuing season, or even to defray the necessary charges of our military servants' wages etc. We must take the liberty to represent to Your Honours how prejudicial this deficiency in the consignments from Madrass may prove to your affairs in these provinces at this time, it

being impossible (we are afraid) to borrow money at interest, and as impossible to carry on the works necessary for our defence, and the operations in the field against the Subah, without money, besides which we may lose many favourable opportunities of purchasing goods proper for your use, by the want of ready cash to pay for them, all which inconveniences the gentlemen upon that Coast must have been aware of, and their conduct therefore the more inexcusable.

20. We shall now reply to such parts of Your Honours' General Letter this season, as we have it in our power to answer, in our present situation, many parts of which we are obliged to leave unanswered from the loss of all our papers, books, consultations and accounts.

21. We shall pay a due regard to the orders contained in the 14th paragraph of your letter per *Walpole*, and protest against such commanders as may loiter or delay the time after receiving our first dispatches.

22. The Accountant has been directed to state an account current between the Company and every Europe ship agreeable to your directions which shall be transmitted in the packets of the respective ships.

23. The President and Council at Madrass have landed all the copper and woollen goods designed for this place. Should a favourable turn of affairs open any prospect of selling those articles, we shall desire them to forward hither such a proportion as we judge can be disposed of; and in that case we shall observe your directions for causing the several sorts of copper to be put up to sale distinctly.

24. The house and ground Your Honours mention to have been bought by Colonel Scott was purchased at his death by Capt. John Buchanan, of whom we bought the mills for making powder for the sum of 4000 rupees, and took the provision of that article into our own hands on your account, allowing Capt. Buchanan a gratuity to supravise and give the necessary orders for incorporating and working the ingredients agreeable to the rules received last season, by which measure we should not only have been supplied with better gun powder than we could purchase of any persons who made it for sale, but found it likewise turn out considerably cheaper, which method we shall always adopt for the future.

25. Your Honours having required our reasons very explicitly for the difference of our opinion touching Govindram Metre's purchase of the farms, while he held the office of Black Zemindar, we shall endeavour to explain the seeming contradiction of our resolution in Council the 30th January and the remark we made in our letter of the 3rd of February following. Metre having been ordered to lay a statement of the profits he had made on the farms he purchased during his being in your service, the majority of the Board were of opinion, he ought to refund the amount of such profits, not because those farms were purchased in a clandestine manner, the contrary of which was evident, but because you had peremptorily ordered it, and therefore directed him to repay the sum of 4785-11-3. But at the same time we thought it incumbent on us to do him the justice to acquaint Your Honours that we could see no reason to think he purchased those farms in a fraudulent manner. This we can assure you to be truth, and you will observe in our proceedings of the 30th January that it is only said, Metre should be accountable for the

profits he has made on the farms by him held, but not by him held in a clandestine and fraudulent manner. We flatter ourselves this explanation will prove satisfactory, and as Your Honours seem to acquit him of paying that money, if we do not think him guilty of acting fraudulently in the purchase, we shall not demand it of him any more.

26. Major James Killpatrick has received Your Honours' commission, and desires to return his humble thanks for the favour you have shewn him. As he has desired to receive his pay of 15 shillings per day, instead of the salary you have appointed him of 250£ per annum, we have consented to that alteration of your directions.

27. We have directed the Collector of Consulage² to advertise your orders relating to the shipping off goods for exportation, and the import duty to be levied in future on goods which have not paid any customs at your other settlements in India, to take place from the 1st of May next. We have indulged the colony with a dispensation of all kinds of duty (the export duty on grain excepted) and provisions etc., till the last of December next ensuing from a consideration of the distress which the inhabitants labour under at present which we hope Your Honours will approve of.

28. Our books and papers being lost, we are to request you will transmit us a set of standing orders for our future conduct, copy of our treasury and cash accounts and account sales to the dispatch of the *Denham* with the general books ballanced to April 1755.

29. It will be proper likewise to send us exemplification of the charter instructions for the Mayor's Court and Courts of Oyer and Terminer, Commission for holding Courts of Admiralty for the trial of piracies, and powers to appoint judge advocates to general courts martial.

30. As we are not yet able to certify the state of our markets, we cannot pretend to make any indents for woollen goods, copper etc. All we can say upon that subject is to request you will not overload us with imports till we advise you of there being purchasers. The accounts remains of the I.W.H. stone go-down, and military stores will be forwarded by the *Delawar*.

31. The inconvenience and little utility of having any part of our military force detached at subordinates has been so much felt and experienced by us in our late misfortunes, that we take upon us to recommend to Your Honours never to maintain a garrison up the country, or have any numerous factorys or buildings which may require a large expence of repairs. Should we find it necessary to have some Europeans at Cossimbuzar, Dacca or other *aurungs*, a few of the servants at each will answer the end as well and put the Company to little or no charge either in *Durbar* presents or otherwise.

32. We have determined to defer filling up the vacancies in Council, while we have no members absent at subordinates, unless the Board should by casualties or otherwise be reduced to less than nine, the number which was usually on the spot, when we had factories in the country.

33. Enclosed is a list of the covenanted servants upon our establishment, which compared with the list sent you last season, will mark out those who are dead, most of whom were killed at the taking of Fort William; Messrs Hyndham, Lyndsay and Vasmer died at Fulta of fevers.

34. A copy of the Charter having been preserved by one of the Mayor's Court attorneys, we found it absolutely incumbent on us (in consequence of a clause therein) to constitute and declare Bulramgurry, the only factory we had remaining, to be the seat of our Presidency which Your Honours will observe we did on the 25th October and published the same by our Secretary. Upon our return to Fort William, we have again removed the seat of our Presidency from Bulramgurry to this place, and have advertised such removal at the fort gates as usual.

35. Judging it necessary to put the black merchants and Armenians under some regulations in future, we shall take into consideration when we have more leisure, upon what footing to admit their residence within our bounds.

36. The greatest part of the inhabitants being totally ruined, and unable to discharge the whole of their debts by the fatal loss of the settlement, we beg leave to recommend their unhappy situation to your consideration. And as the calamity has been so general and destructive, and their misfortunes owing to no mismanagement of theirs in trade, but to the pillage and depredations of a powerfull and unexpected enemy, we should esteem it an ineffable piece of goodness if Your Honours could obtain a clause to the statutes of bankruptcy in favour of the unfortunate sufferers at Calcutta, by which they should be discharged of all demands, upon giving up and assigning to and for the use of their creditors whatever assets they may now be possessed of, after which to be left at liberty to provide for themselves and families by trade, without being liable to lett or molestation from their former creditors. Such a relief in the distresses the inhabitants in general labour under at present would be of universal benefit, and we think but fair and equitable.

37. The long and dangerous sickness of our Secretary at Fulta, the death of the Sub-Secretary and the impossibility of conducting the business of that office in a regular manner on board the ships and vessels we lived in, may probably occasion the omission of some papers being entered after our proceedings, and other neglects of that kind, which we hope Your Honours will excuse.

38. Mr. Holwell has delivered in a letter to the Board addressed to Your Honours which we transmit by this packet. He begs leave to apologize for any errors in the dates he has mentioned as he had no vouchers to rectify them, and was obliged to depend on his recollection alone. He likewise desires the slovenly manner it is transcribed in may be overlooked, as he had not time to get a fairer copy engrossed for this conveyance.

39. By this sloop we have granted the following bills of exchange at 2s-3d for each current rupee, the respective amounts being first accounted for in the treasury:

One sett to Mr. John Pyc dated the 21st January 1757 payable to Capt. David Crichton or order for current rupees 933-5-3 or £Sterling 105.

One sett to Mr. Peter Amyatt dated 21st January 1757 payable to Willm. Barwell Esqr. or order for current rupees 888-14 or £Sterling 100.

One sett to John Zephaniah Holwell Esqr. dated 24th January 1757 payable to J. Z. Holwell Esqr. or order for current rupees 6222-3 or £Sterling 700.

One sett to Monsr. Le Beaume dated 25th January 1757 payable to Monsr. Raphael De le Beaume de Chateawiedou or order for current rupees 550 or £Sterling 61-17-6.

One sett to Mr. Stanlake Batson dated 25 January 1757 payable to Mrs. Margaret Batson or order for current rupees 335 or £Sterling 40.

One sett to Mr. George Gray dated 26th January 1757 payable to Mr. Henry Allen or order for current rupees 24087-2-3 or £Sterling 2709-2-1.

One sett to Mr. George Gray dated 26th January 1757 payable to Mr. George Gray or order for current rupees 9212 or £Sterling 1036.

One sett to Mr. George Gray dated 26th January 1757 payable to Mr. George Gray or order for current rupees 10222-3-6 or £Sterling 1150.

One sett to Mr. George Gray dated 26th January 1757 payable to Mr. George Gray or order for current rupees 9777-12-6 or £Sterling 1100.

One sett to Mr. George Gray dated 26th January 1757 payable to Mr. George Gray or order for current ruppies 11111-1-9 or £Sterling 1250.

One sett to Mr. Peter Duncan dated 25th January 1757 payable to Messrs Jos. and Francis Fowkes or order for current rupees 9436 or £Sterling 160-2-5 [sic].

One sett to Messrs Mackett and Peter Amyatt dated 25th January 1757 payable to Mrs Martha Warren or order for current rupees 1810-6-9 or £Sterling 203-13-5.

One sett to Messrs Manningham and Franckland and Holmes dated 25th January 1757 payable to Sir Willm. Russell Bart. or order for current rupees 3222-15 or £Sterling 352-11-7.

One sett to John Zephaniah Holwell Esqr. dated 25th January 1757 payable to Messrs Davis Peter Taylor and Charles Whaley or order for current rupees 13333-5-3 or £Sterling 1500.

One sett to ditto dated ditto payable to J. Z. Holwell Esqr. or order for current rupees 4444-7 or £Sterling 500.

The whole amount of bills of exchange granted by this sloop is current rupees 97,094-10-9 or £Sterling 10925-8.

40. We are now to acknowledge the receipt of our commission transmitted us per *Chesterfield*, for which we return our most humble thanks, and shall do every thing in our power to deserve Your Honours' favor and regard.

41. Before we close this letter we beg leave to mention the good inclinations Mr. Watson has manifested to the interest of our employers, his bringing the squadron down the Bay notwithstanding he was called home, his readiness to assist us with His Majesty's ships in recovering our settlements and with his advice when requested by our Select Committee, declaring war

against the Subah on His Majesty's part, and the disinterestedness he has shewn in delivering up the fort and town with the guns, military stores, and effects found therein, are all marks of the strongest attachment to the good and welfare of the Hon'ble Company and deserves a particular notice.

42. Major James Killpatrick having delivered us a letter concerning his salary of 250 £ which Your Honours have ordered should not be paid to the Majors in future, we enclose that letter and beg leave to observe that this pay and other perquisites are very insufficient for the manner it is necessary for him to live in, exclusive of the extraordinary care and charge he must have upon him as Major of the garrison.

43. Captain Jones has our directions to follow any orders he may receive from Captain Richard Kin (after leaving the pilot) who carries the Admiral dispatches to Europe.

44. As Mr. Holwell takes his passage in this sloop we have committed the charge of this packet to his care.

We are with the greatest respect,

May it please Your Honours,

Your faithful honorable servants,

Roger Drake Junr. / James Killpatrick / Richd. Becher / Paul Richard
Pearkes / W. Frankland / W. Mackett.

Fort William, 31st January 1757.

6

LETTER DATED 1 FEBRUARY 1757

Clive pleads inability to attack Nawab with a small force—Fort William invulnerable—Bussy's activities near Vizagapatam—Necessity of early accommodation with Nawab—Offer of treaty of neutrality to French repeated—Nawab's advance towards Calcutta—His desire for accommodation with the English—Clive agrees to act with the Council of Fort William unless driven to act otherwise.

TO the Hon'ble Secret Committee for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable,

1. I addressed you from Fort St. George under date of the 11th October, and now I have the pleasure to write you from Bengall and congratulate you on your being in re-possession of Fort William, and on the taking and demolishing of Hughley.

2. The enclosed copies of my advices to the Select Committee of Fort St. George, together with the accompanying journal of military transactions and return of the forces with me, will fully inform you of all our proceedings, as well as our present strength and situation of affairs.

3. You will perceive, gentlemen, that what with the terrible mortality in Major Killpatrick's party at Fulta, 240 Europeans absent on the *Cumberland* and not above half the intended number of seepoys sent me from the Coast, the force with me is vastly short of what I had room to expect, and will not admit of my carrying on an offensive war against the Nabob till I am joyned either by the *Cumberland's* men or the expected reinforcement from Bombay. However, by the situation of our camp and some batteries we have erected, I am quite in a condition to act defensively against his whole army.

4. Fort William is already in a very tolerable state of defence. The ditch is finished and in few days a glacis will be completed with an esplanade of near 150 yards. The inclosed plan will inform you what other works will be added. On the whole I may venture to assure you, that in eight or ten days it will be out of all danger from the Moors.

5. The gentlemen of the Committee of Fort St. George, on advice of the war with France, immediately dispatched letters to me directing my return to the Coast as early as possible, with what troops could be spared, which, considering the reinforcement from Bombay, they hoped would be near as many as I brought with me. Further advices from them dated 2nd and 11th December mention Monsr. Bussy's¹ having set out from Hyderabad the 16th November and advanced towards the sea coast with about 1000 men, having left 100 with Salabut Jung. They conclude his destination is for Pondicherry, there to join other troops expected from the Islands and make up a formidable force for action in the Carnatick, therefore urging my return with as many troops as possible, both of the Madrass and Bombay detachments. For that, all schemes of action in Bengall must be dropt for the present, and our whole force bent against the collected strength of the French on the Coast.

6. I have no account myself from the Chief of Vizagapatam, but by Mr. Pocock's letter to Mr. Watson and the information of Lieutt. Rumbold arrived from thence, I understand that Monsr. Bussy gave out that he was coming to settle the affairs of this province, but that by the direction of his march, he seemed to have a design on Vizagapatam, and the English settlement in that neighbourhood. That when he was within about 6 days' march of Vizagapatam and heard of the *Cumberland's* arrival there, he detached Monsr. Law² with about 300 Europeans to Mazulipatam to defend it against any attempts from that ship as it is supposed, and he himself halted with the rest of his army consisting as it is thought of about 4 or 5 hundred Europeans and a very large black force, both foot and horse. The accident, therefore, of the *Cumberland's* falling in with Vizagapatam has saved your northern settlement for the present, which I fear on her coming away must fall a sacrifice to the superiority of the French forces in that quarter.

7. All circumstances concur to make me wish a speedy accommodation in this province, both with the Nabob and French, and it is my ardent desire



Sirajud-Daulah

to be able to embark for the Coast this month, with some of the troops. But it is hardly to be expected that matters will be sufficiently settled to admit of it. The Admiral declares he is ready to stay till September if your affairs require it, and it will be impossible for me to return without the squadron. Indeed I am myself so sensible of the consequence, which the trade of this province is of to the Company, that I think I ought not, on any account, to draw off part of the troops while a fair prospect remains of a speedy and advantageous conclusion of affairs either by force of arms or a treaty. Whenever we return, I will endeavour to prevail on the Admiral to call at Vizagapatam to know the state of the Coast and whether our services will be necessary in that neighbourhood.

8. A second offer has been made to the French of a neutrality in the Ganges, and without the condition we formerly insisted upon, their joining us against the Nabob. As yet we have had no answer from them, but I think the proposition too advantageous for them to decline, unless indeed the gentlemen of Charnagore should not be vested with powers to enter into engagements of such a nature which I somewhat suspect.

9. As to the Nabob a treaty is now on foot with him, but I cannot yet judge how sincere he is in his intention towards a peace. He has wrote to the Admiral, and I am informed he dispatched a letter to me, but as yet I have not received it; however, I have heard from several of his great men, and all their letters intimate the Nabob's desire of an accommodation with the English. Nevertheless his troops advance slowly towards us and he himself is within 30 miles on the other side of the river and hourly expected to cross it. His force consists of 30,000 men, horse and foot, if we may trust our intelligence which indeed has all along proved very defective. It is possible his design may be only to amuse us with a treaty for some particular ends, but a few days must bring that to light. By the *Delawar*, if not by this conveyance, I shall be able to write with more certainty on this subject. Inclosed I send translate of a letter I have received from Juggut Seat's *vakeel*, who accompanys the Nabob, also copy of my answer to him and of a letter I desired him to deliver the Nabob, by the tenour of which, you will observe, I am endeavouring to see if any good effects can be reaped from a moderate conduct.

10. The Nabob of Prunea was unluckily cut off and his country subjected just before our arrival here. The only competitor that is now likely to rise against Surajah Doulet is the Nabob of Cuttack, who, it is said, set out about two months ago to bring the Morattoes in the province, and is now expected back. It is not improbable the Nabob is under some alarm from that quarter.

11. The gentlemen of the Select Committee here have left the correspondence and negotiations with the Nabob to be transacted by the Admiral and me jointly. All propositions they make will be attended to and for my part you may be assured, gentlemen, that, notwithstanding my independant command, I shall endeavour to maintain a perfect harmony with them and act throughout, if possible, with their participation. They thought proper some time ago to demand a surrender of my commission as Commander in Chief and that I would put myself under their orders, which I looked upon

myself as obliged to refuse in justice to those who had intrusted me with such powers; however, I represented to them what I had often declared at the Council Board, and what indeed the whole tenour of my conduct had confirmed, that I had no intentions of making use of my independant powers unless they reduced me to it by necessity, for we had but one common interest to pursue, which was that of the Company, and as long as that was kept in view they would always find me ready to follow their instructions.

12. It will be unnecessary for me to explain the sorrows of the late unhappy loss of Calcutta, or make any observations on the conduct of your servants before or during the troubles. Their own letters, publick and private, will lay open the whole. I shall therefore spare myself the invidious task.

13. I request the favour of you, gentlemen, to consider that I have a large army near me, and am taken up with many civil as well as military avocations, and hope, therefore, you will excuse me if my advices are not so complete as you might expect. You may nevertheless be assured that no one has a warmer zeal or a more constant attention for your service.

I have the honour to be with great respect,
Honorable,
Your most obedient and most humble servant,
Robert Clive.

Camp near Calcutta, 1st February 1757.

7

LETTER DATED 1 FEBRUARY 1757

Clive intimates recapture of Calcutta, realization of a considerable part of investment, and prospect of accommodation with the Nawab.

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable,

1. It is with great pleasure I congratulate Your Honours on the re-capture of Calcutta, the re-possession of a very considerable part of your investment and of the prospect of an accommodation with the Nabob of this province, to the advantage and honour of the Company.

2. I have addressed myself very fully to your Committee on the situation of your affairs in these parts, which I hope will meet with your approbation. Give me leave to assure Your Honours that my undertaking this expedition was with the sole view of re-establishing the trade and commerce

of this province and my conduct throughout shall be such as will lead to that salutary end.

3. I inclose, Your Honours, a journal of our military proceedings, and a return of the forces, under my command.

Being with the greatest respect,
Honorable,
Your most obedient and most humble servant,
Robert Clive.

Camp on Barnagul Plain, 1st February 1757.

8

LETTER DATED 22 FEBRUARY 1757

Nawab's overtures for accommodation—His advance towards Calcutta—Clive's reasons for surprise attack on the Nawab—Ahmad Shah Abdali proclaims himself Emperor of India—Treaty with Nawab necessitated by French activities—Nawab forbids hostilities against the French—French seek treaty of neutrality.

TO the Hon'ble Secret Committee for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble,

1. My last address was by the *Syren* sloop dated 1st instant, when I acquainted you that my force being far short of what I expected, I was only in a condition to act on the defensive, that the Nabob was advancing towards us and at the same time had made some overtures for an accommodation, and that the situation of affairs on the Coast and the pressing instances of the gentlemen of Fort St. George for our return made me earnestly wish to conclude a peace in this province as speedily as possible.

2. On the 3rd instant, letters came in from the Nabob proposing to restore our settlement and make some reparation for the effects taken, and desiring proper persons to be sent to confer with him on the subject. At the same time, the van of his army appeared in sight and passed along towards Calcutta just without reach of the cannon of our battery to the eastward.

3. Coja Patrus,¹ an Armenian, who brought the Nabob's letters, assured me that the Nabob had by his own mouth promised to wait at a place called Gange, where he then was, till the conference was over, and I directly wrote him testifying my satisfaction at his pacifick intentions, and that two gentlemen would be deputed immediately to treat with him. As it was of great consequence to know the Nabob's real design without loss of time, I dispatched Messrs. Walsh and Scrafton to him in the next morning who, after travelling

the best part of the way to Gange, were informed that the Nabob had passed on to Dum Dumma on which they followed him and running through the rear of his army came up with him in the town of Calcutta itself. On their admittance to the Nabob, they represented that as they expected to have met him at Gange in a favourable disposition towards a peace with the English, they could not but be greatly surprized in finding him entered in an hostile manner into their very city, and that, unless he would manifest some desire of a peace by withdrawing his troops from the neighbourhood of Calcutta, they could not enter upon the business they came about. The Nabob refused to comply with their proposition and treating them with no small haughtiness they took their leave and returned to me late in the evening.

4. As I now plainly perceived he only meant to amuse us and that the little opposition he had received served rather to elate his hopes than incline him to moderate measures, I determined to attack him the next morning before day break, while two thirds of his army were still encamped without the Morattos Ditch,² for when they had once passed and got into the streets of the town, it would be too late to attempt it. Another pressing reason for the immediate execution of this enterprize, notwithstanding the smallness of my force, was the sudden distress we found ourselves in upon the approach of the Nabob's army, by a general desertion of our workmen, coolies and servants, the breaking up of our markets and no provisions to be had but what was supplied from the fort by water, in which condition we could not have continued long, but must have retreated into the fort with disgrace. I therefore desired Admiral Watson to assist me with five or six hundred seamen principally for drawing the artillery and carrying ammunition which he readily complied with, and about 3 in the morning, I marched out with nearly my whole force leaving only a few Europeans with 200 new raised *bucksarecs* to guard our camp. About 6 we entered the enemies' camp in a thick fog and crossed it in about two hours with considerable execution. Had the fog cleared up as it usually does about 8 o'clock when we were entire masters of the camps without the ditch, the action must have been decisive, instead of which it thickened and occasioned our mistaking the way. I avoid troubling you with the particulars of this undertaking as they are fully set down in my journal of military occurrences.

5. The next day being the 6th, the Nabob decamped and removed to Dum Dumma and the Armenian was again sent to me with a letter from Rungeet Roy desiring, if we meant peace, to transmit our proposals to the Nabob who was inclined to comply with them. Accordingly, the Select Committee was consulted and the articles agreed on and forwarded. But the Nabob proposing to sign them in an evasive manner, a second copy was sent to him to execute in positive terms, which he did, at least what were deemed tantamount, and immediately set forward to Muxadavad with all his forces.

6. Just at this time he had received advice that the Afghans had defeated the Mogul and their leader had seized the Government assuming the title of Ahmud Shaw Shahawn Shah. Orders were immediately issued for coins for this province to be struck in the name of the new Emperor, and the Nabob, it is supposed, is hurrying to his frontiers to make an alliance

with his neighbor, the Nabob of Lucknapore, sometimes called Oud, for their mutual support in the present disturbed state of the Empire.

7. I have little to observe on the terms obtained from the Nabob except that they are both honorable and advantageous for the Company. The grants of a mint and the villages hitherto detained from us are very considerable and the abolishing the duties lately exacted by the *chowkies* as well as confirming the free transportation of goods without customs of any kind, and the rest of the privileges of the royal *phirmaund*, are no small points gained.

8. The Nabob caused inventories to be taken of the goods found at the out-settlements and *aurungs* and they are to be delivered up accordingly. He intimated privately his intentions of paying three lack of rupees in consideration of the Company's other losses; as to ample restitution for what was plundered by his army at Calcutta, it could not well be expected of him as he says himself in one of his letters.

9. The jealousies instilled into him by the French agents made it necessary for us to conclude the treaty with him out of hand, as well to convince him of our moderate views, which he seemed to doubt, as to prevent his union with the French which was then strongly pushed on. As he must now be convinced of the consequence we are of to his affairs and of his advantage and security in a firm and close alliance with us, we may hope the treaty will be complied with to our satisfaction and that he will not be averse even to granting any further reasonable privileges that may be required of him in future by the gentlemen here.

10. Mr. Watts set out the 17th to attend the Nabob's *Durbar* and press him to the speedy execution of the several points of the treaty on his part and some gentlemen are likewise gone to the different subordinates to receive the effects to be delivered over to them.

11. The French having given no answer to the offers of a neutrality we made them we were in hopes to have prevailed on the Nabob to suffer us to attack Charnagore since he had solemnly declared in his letters that he would esteem our enemies as his, and assist us with forces against them whenever we required it. Rungeet Roy was first discoursed with on the subject upon his arrival with presents from the Nabob on the conclusion of his treaty, but I have reason to think we met with no advocate in him in regard to this point. Omichund accompanied him back to the *Durbar* and had particular instructions to sound the Nabob on the subject. He returned with a letter from the Nabob in which he desired us to furnish him with 25 artillery men, and referred us to Omichund for some particulars he had ordered him to impart, which were that he had been informed that Monsr. Bussy with a large army was coming and that some French [men] of war were likewise expected and that he desired we would prevent the French from entering his kingdom by land or water. As this was construed in some measure a permission for attacking the French in Charnagore, a proper answer was wrote to the Nabob and Mr. Watts accompanied by Omichund was sent to urge the point. The next day being the 18th, the army crossed the river and encamped opposite to Barnagul and this day I intended to have begun my march towards Charnagore. The large ships were to have followed the 25th before which it would

the best part of the way to Gange, were informed that the Nabob had passed on to Dum Dumma on which they followed him and running through the rear of his army came up with him in the town of Calcutta itself. On their admittance to the Nabob, they represented that as they expected to have met him at Gange in a favourable disposition towards a peace with the English, they could not but be greatly surprized in finding him entered in an hostile manner into their very city, and that, unless he would manifest some desire of a peace by withdrawing his troops from the neighbourhood of Calcutta, they could not enter upon the business they came about. The Nabob refused to comply with their proposition and treating them with no small haughtiness they took their leave and returned to me late in the evening.

4. As I now plainly perceived he only meant to amuse us and that the little opposition he had received served rather to elate his hopes than incline him to moderate measures, I determined to attack him the next morning before day break, while two thirds of his army were still encamped without the Morattos Ditch,² for when they had once passed and got into the streets of the town, it would be too late to attempt it. Another pressing reason for the immediate execution of this enterprize, notwithstanding the smallness of my force, was the sudden distress we found ourselves in upon the approach of the Nabob's army, by a general desertion of our workmen, coolies and servants, the breaking up of our markets and no provisions to be had but what was supplied from the fort by water, in which condition we could not have continued long, but must have retreated into the fort with disgrace. I therefore desired Admiral Watson to assist me with five or six hundred seamen principally for drawing the artillery and carrying ammunition which he readily complied with, and about 3 in the morning, I marched out with nearly my whole force leaving only a few Europeans with 200 new raised *bucksarecs* to guard our camp. About 6 we entered the enemies' camp in a thick fog and crossed it in about two hours with considerable execution. Had the fog cleared up as it usually does about 8 o'clock when we were entire masters of the camps without the ditch, the action must have been decisive, instead of which it thickened and occasioned our mistaking the way. I avoid troubling you with the particulars of this undertaking as they are fully set down in my journal of military occurrences.

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6. Just at this time he had received advice that the Afghans had defeated the Mogul and their leader had seized the Government assuming the title of Ahmud Shaw Shahawn Shah. Orders were immediately issued for coins for this province to be struck in the name of the new Emperor, and the Nabob, it is supposed, is hurrying to his frontiers to make an alliance

with his neighbor, the Nabob of Lucknapore, sometimes called Oud, for their mutual support in the present disturbed state of the Empire.

7. I have little to observe on the terms obtained from the Nabob except that they are both honorable and advantageous for the Company. The grants of a mint and the villages hitherto detained from us are very considerable and the abolishing the duties lately exacted by the *chowkies* as well as confirming the free transportation of goods without customs of any kind, and the rest of the privileges of the royal *phirmaund*, are no small points gained.

8. The Nabob caused inventories to be taken of the goods found at the out-settlements and *aurungs* and they are to be delivered up accordingly. He intimated privately his intentions of paying three lack of rupees in consideration of the Company's other losses; as to ample restitution for what was plundered by his army at Calcutta, it could not well be expected of him as he says himself in one of his letters.

9. The jealousies instilled into him by the French agents made it necessary for us to conclude the treaty with him out of hand, as well to convince him of our moderate views, which he seemed to doubt, as to prevent his union with the French which was then strongly pushed on. As he must now be convinced of the consequence we are of to his affairs and of his advantage and security in a firm and close alliance with us, we may hope the treaty will be complied with to our satisfaction and that he will not be averse even to granting any further reasonable privileges that may be required of him in future by the gentlemen here.

10. Mr. Watts set out the 17th to attend the Nabob's *Durbar* and press him to the speedy execution of the several points of the treaty on his part and some gentlemen are likewise gone to the different subordinates to receive the effects to be delivered over to them.

11. The French having given no answer to the offers of a neutrality we made them we were in hopes to have prevailed on the Nabob to suffer us to attack Charnagore since he had solemnly declared in his letters that he would esteem our enemies as his, and assist us with forces against them whenever we required it. Rungeet Roy was first discoursed with on the subject upon his arrival with presents from the Nabob on the conclusion of his treaty, but I have reason to think we met with no advocate in him in regard to this point. Omichund accompanied him back to the *Durbar* and had particular instructions to sound the Nabob on the subject. He returned with a letter from the Nabob in which he desired us to furnish him with 25 artillery men, and referred us to Omichund for some particulars he had ordered him to impart, which were that he had been informed that Monsr. Bussy with a large army was coming and that some French [men] of war were likewise expected and that he desired we would prevent the French from entering his kingdom by land or water. As this was construed in some measure a permission for attacking the French in Charnagore, a proper answer was wrote to the Nabob and Mr. Watts accompanied by Omichund was sent to urge the point. The next day being the 18th, the army crossed the river and encamped opposite to Barnagul and this day I intended to have begun my march towards Charnagore. The large ships were to have followed the 25th before which it would

be dangerous for them to move on account of the irregular and rapid tides. We were in expectation of receiving very soon further encouragement from Mr. Watts for attempting the enterprize, but yesterday arrived letters from the Nabob absolutely forbidding hostilities against the French and declaring that he should consider all attempts against them as violation of the treaty and that he would assist them in such case with his utmost force. At the same time came in a request from the Governor and Council of Charnagore for a neutrality within the Ganges which the Select Committee taking into consideration thought it advisable to accede to rather than risque a rupture with the Nabob. Accordingly, an answer was returned them that if they were duly impowered to conclude such an act and could get it guaranteed by the Nabob, we would come into it on our part. I wrote at the same time to the Nabob acquainting him of our submission to his orders, but that if by this means the French should hereafter be in such a state as to disturb his country, he must lay the blame on himself.

12. All operations therefore are now over and I may hope in [a] few days to take my passage for the Coast with the satisfaction of having left your affairs well re-established and a general tranquility in the province. My joy will be complete if I am so happy as to find my conduct throughout has been such as to merit your approbation.

13. Since I had the honour to address you last I have had no further advices from Fort St. George nor has the *Cumberland* appeared nor any of the troops we expected from Bombay. I can therefore return with very few men to the Coast. The importance of this colony is such that I cannot conclude better than by recommending to Your Honours in the strongest manner to send out as large a military force as you conveniently can for its protection.

I am with the greatest respect,
Hon'ble,
Your most obedient and humble servant

[R. Clive]

Camp opposite to Barngul, 22nd February 1757.

9

LETTER DATED 22 FEBRUARY 1757

Nawab's advance towards Calcutta—Clive's surprise attack on Nawab's forces—Conclusion of advantageous treaty with Nawab—Nawab forbids hostilities against the French—Willingness to conclude treaty of "Neutrality within the Ganges" with the French—Nawab in favour of alliance with the English—Necessity of a strong garrison in Calcutta.

TO the Hon'ble the Secret Committee for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

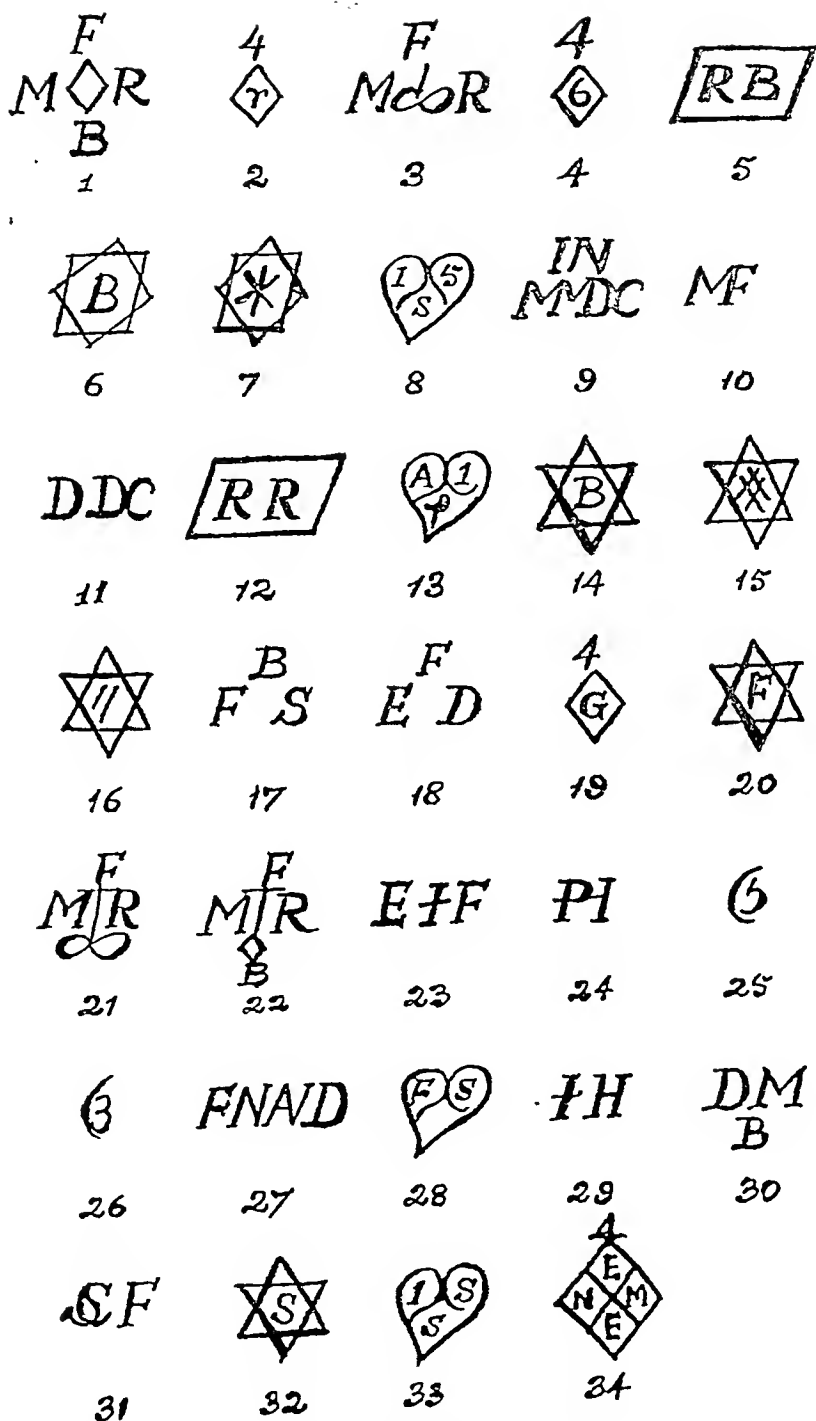


Chart showing the trade symbols of the East India Company used in the Correspondence



Hon'ble Sirs,

1. Enclosed we transmit you duplicate of our address by Mr. Holwell, who returned to Europe on the *Syren* sloop, which vessel, we hope, has safely imported in England before the arrival of these advices. By this packet we send one copy of our proceedings, letters etc. for your perusal.

2. Since the dispatch of the *Syren* the Nabob's forces approached to the outskirts of our town, contrary to a promise he had made the Colonel. Messrs Walsh and Scafton waited on him in Omichund's garden, but being received with indifference and giving no satisfactory answers to the proposals they made him, the Colonel, on the morning of the 6th instant, beat up his quarters, marched through his camp and killed a great number of men. The loss on our side was not inconsiderable. We have reason to imagine the consternation this affair occasioned both in the Nabob and his army, induced him to sue for an accommodation by the intervention of Roy Rungeet, Juggerscat's *vackeel*. The articles of the treaty we have concluded with him are forwarded in the general packet and are such as, we flatter ourselves, will prove satisfactory, the advantages resulting to the Company being more than sufficient to recompense the heavy loss and charges they have suffered. Whether greater concessions might not have been obtained if demanded, we will not pretend to determine.

3. As some particulars were omitted to be applied for, we have dispatched Mr. Watts to the *Durbar* at Muxadavad, to endeavour the obtaining them, and to explain some articles which at present seem liable and open to evasion.

4. As the French deputies when in Calcutta had declined the tender we made them of our influence with the Admiral to consent to a neutrality within the Ganges, we thought it incumbent on us, upon the conclusion of the treaty of peace with the Nabob, to recommend the attack of Chandernagore by sea and land which we were given to understand could not be disagreeable to the Nabob and accordingly ordered Mr. Watts to touch on that subject at the *Durbar* and obtain, if possible, his permission to expel that nation out of their settlements in Bengal.

5. For this end the Admiral and Colonel concerted measures to attack Chandernagore by sea and land, and our troops have crossed the river. Yesterday arrived three letters from the Nabob to Admiral Watson, Colonel Clive and Major Killpatrick, forbidding them to commit hostilities within his dominions, to prevent which and procure peace and quiet to his country he had so readily consented to the late treaty. He at the same time declared he should esteem an attack of the French settled here to be an open and direct violation of the late treaty and in that case he must, in honor and duty to his king, assist them with his forces.

6. Yesterday we likewise received a letter from the Director and Company of Chandernagore renewing their proposals for a neutrality within the Ganges. Upon taking this affair under consideration, we have thought it advisable not to hazard a second rupture with the Nabob as the Company's affairs are far from being settled here or well situated on the Coast. In consequence of this determination, we have directed Mr. Watts to forbear making any mention of that subject at the *Durbar* and have wrote to the French Directors ar

Council that we have no objection to treat with their deputies for a solid neutrality, if they are authorized to conclude one and will apply to the Suba to guarantee the said treaty.

7. When Mr. Watts went up to Muxadavad, we sent with him 15 artillery men at the Nabob's particular request. From the purport of his letters to the Admiral and Colonel, we have reason to think he is willing not only to live in a good understanding with us, but to engage in a league offensive and defensive. It has been likewise hinted to the Colonel that he would pay the charges of maintaining 500 Europeans in garrison on condition he should be assisted when he was invaded by foreign enemys or disturbed by internecine troubles. Whether his sincerity herein may be depended on we cannot yet pretend to determine. We must however beg leave to observe that a strong garrison in future at this settlement will be absolutely necessary to preserve our acquisitions by the late treaty and prevent the encroachments of the Government.

We are with the greatest respect,

Hon'ble Sirs,

Your most faithful and most obedient humble servants,

Roger Drake Junr. / Robert Clive / Richd. Becher.

Fort William, 22nd February 1757.

P.S. There being some letters in the packet under addresses to Holland, we think it would be proper to examine whether they may not enclose letters for France.

10

LETTER DATED 23 FEBRUARY 1757

Treaty with the Nawab—Grant of extra allowance to Company's servants in Calcutta—Indent for military stores—Particulars of bills of exchange—Proposal to educate some servants in Persian language and literature at Basra.

TO the Hon'ble the Court of, Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honors,

1. Duplicate of our letter per Syren is enclosed in this packet.

2. Immediately after her dispatch we were alarmed with the approach of the Nabob's army, part of which had penetrated into the outskirts of our town. This obliged us to shut ourselves up in the fort and provide for a siege. We appointed Messrs Sumner and Leycester Commissaries of

provisions and ordered them to lay in a large stock of all kinds. The confusion we were thrown into by this unexpected entrance of the enemy and the want of cooleys, packers etc., have retarded the dispatch of this ship [*Delawar*] so long. She is now laden and we flatter ourselves will arrive in good time with Your Honours.

3. On the 14th instant the Select Committee laid before us articles of a treaty of peace they had concluded with the Subah the 10th and translate of the agreement they had executed on behalf of the English. Copies of both are enclosed for your observation. We beg leave to congratulate Your Honours on this speedy and happy conclusion of our disturbances upon terms so extremely advantageous to the Company.

4. The appointments we have made of servants to go up to our subordinates and receive your factories, goods, effects, monies etc., you will observe upon the face of our consultation of the 14th instant. But as yet we have not established those subordinates, which we purpose to take into consideration when we begin the ensuing year's investment. We have given them instructions to get the goods they shall receive at the respective factories in readiness as soon as possible and send them down to Calcutta, intending to return the *Marlbro'* home fully laden from hence in September.

5. This being a proper opportunity to clear the town of the number of trees with which it is at present cloaked up, we have given orders for cutting them down.

6. The Factory House, Company's House, and all the apartments for the senior and junior servants being entirely destroyed by the Moors, and there being no probability that the Nabob will consent to a restitution of private losses, we have taken the distressed situation of your servants into consideration, as the articles of provisions, necessaries etc. are grown dearer than formerly, and we have agreed to make them the following monthly allowances till your pleasure is known:

The President	...	...	300 Rs. per mensem
Each Member of Council	...	100	" "
Senior and Junior Merchants	...	70	" "
Factors and Writers	...	40	" "

over and above their usual monthly allowances, which we hope will not be esteemed unreasonable, as the advantages accruing to the Company from treaty now concluded are infinitely more than sufficient to compensate for their loss and charges and will admit of relieving private inhabitants without prejudice to themselves.

7. We have resolved to send the *Phoenix* schooner to the Gulph of Persia with duplicates of these advices, to be forwarded *via* Aleppo, being sensible the receipt of them will be of great consequence to Your Honours' affairs.

8. The President has with great difficulty procured eight hundred bags of saltpetre at Chinchura, which we have agreed to purchase though but indifferent, as we esteem it material to send as much of that article as we can to Europe in consequence of your orders. We shall lade it on the *Walpole*, which ship we design returning to Fort St. George to be filled up and finally dispatched from thence to Europe.

9. As soon as things are settled, we shall appoint a regular committee of accounts and take the marine under consideration, which we have not been able to attempt during the late troubles.

10. Enclosed we send Your Honours an indent of military stores; indents for the import warehouse and for naval stores, we are not able to make and must, in a few words, request the usual quantities of copper, lead, iron and steel may be sent us with naval stores of all kinds.

11. In this packet are transmitted the account of your cash received and disbursed at Fulta with the Agent Victualler's accounts to November inclusive: If they should appear irregular or inmethodical we must hope to be excused as our situation at that place rendered it impracticable to be so exact as we could wish. But Your Honours may rest assured we shall not be wanting in exactness for the future and shall be extremely cautious of disbursing your treasures without an absolute necessity. The good effects of our care in that particular, we hope, Your Honours will be soon convinced of, when you observe the reduction of charges at our several subordinates which were so extravagantly high before.

12. The establishment of a mint being consented to by the Nabob, we have to request Your Honours will send us out an Essay Master with other persons and materials for the better managing of that branch of business.

13. By this ship we have granted the following setts of bills of exchange at two shillings and three pence per current rupee the respective amounts of each being first accounted for in the treasury:

One sett to Richard Becher Esqr. payable to Messrs Nettleton and Raikes for CRs. 725-11-9 or £st 81-12-11.

One sett to Mr. John Cooke payable to Mr. Nathaniel Jacobs for CRs. 204-7-3 or £st 23.

One sett to do payable to Mr. Thomas Goodwin for CRs. 177-12-6 or £st 20.

One sett to Mr. George Gray payable to Mr. Henry Allen for CRs. 11898-10-0 or £st 1338-11-11.

One sett to do payable to Mr. Thomas Mylne for CRs. 17226 or £st 1937-18-6.

One sett to Mr. Richard Court payable to William Fraser Esqr. for CRs. 322-6-6 or £st 36-5-5.

One sett to William Watts Esqr. payable to Mr. William Watts for CRs. 1620 or £st 182-5.

One sett to Mr. Robert Baillic payable to Mr. Hugh Baillic for CRs. 444-7-0 or £st 50.

One sett to John Young Esqr. payable to John Young Esqr. for CRs. 8888-14-3 or £st 1000.

One sett to do payable to do for CRs. 8888-14-3 or £st 1000.

One sett to Paul Richard Pearkes Esqr. payable to William Fraser Esqr. or Mrs. Adriana Cecilia Pearkes for CRs. 1343-8-3 or £st 151-2-10.

One sett to Mr. Harry Verelst payable to William Fraser Esqr. & Mrs. Cecilia Verelst for CRs. 556-2-0 or £st 62-11-3.

One sett to Messrs Mackett Sumner and Douglass payable to Richard Eyre Esqr. for CRs. 3121-2-0 or £st 351-2-6.

One sett to Mr. Thomas Raitt payable to Mr. Thomas Raitt for CRs. 1155-9-0 or £st 130.

One sett to Thomas Boddam Esqr. payable to Thomas Boddam Esqr for CRs. 5,333-5-3 or £st 600.

One sett to Mr. Peter Duncan payable to Messieurs Joseph and Francis Fowke for CRs. 2666-10-9 or £st 300.

One sett to Mr. John Mackmouth payable to Mr. John Mackmouth Senior CRs. 1,777-12-6 or £st 200.

One sett to Mr. William Fullerton payable to Alexander Wynch Esqr. for CRs. 8,640 or £st 972.

One sett to do payable to Mr. Allen Auld for CRs. 540. or £st 60-15.

One sett to Capt. George Minchin payable to Messrs Colley and Nixon for CRs. 2,666-10-9 or £st 300.

One sett to Peter Amyatt Esqr. payable to Mr. Burges for CRs. 311-1-9 or £st 35.

One sett to Messrs Manningham and Frankland payable to Archibald Sterling acct. Miss Glen for CRs. 937-9-0 or £st 105-8-4.

One sett to do payable to Mrs. Eleanor Powney for CRs. 487-4-3 or £st 54-16-4.

One sett to do payable to Miss Leonora Boys for CRs. 266-12-3 or £st 30-0-2.

One sett to do payable to Mrs. Rebecca Casamajor for CRs. 271-13-3 or £[st]30-11-7.

One sett to do payable to Mrs. Sarah Hawkins for CRs. 445-4-3 or £st 50-1-10.

One sett to do payable to Mrs. Mary Houghton for CRs. 396-12-3 or £st 44-12-8.

One sett to Messrs Manningham and Frankland payable to Captain Thomas Nairne for CRs. 2,771-10-6 or £st 311-16-2.

One sett to do payable to John Hipwood for CRs. 356-12-3 or £st 40-2-8.

One sett to do payable to Mrs. Judith Whaley acct. Miss Judith Cottle for CRs. 3321-15-0 or £st 373-14-4.

One sett to do payable to Mrs. Ann Burrow for CRs. 3,446-5-6 or £st 387-14-3.

One sett to do payable to John Henry Mertins for CRs. 707-9-0 or £st 79-12.

One sett to do payable to Cornelius Goodwin Esqr. acct. Elizabeth Cockle for CRs. 2,465-6-0 or £st 277-6-4.

One sett to do payable to William Campbell for CRs. 535-2-0 or £st 60-4.

One sett to do payable to Stephen Law Esqr. for CRs. 787-8-9 £st 88-12.

One sett to do payable to John Gay accot. Miss Emilia Moore for CRs. 3781-10-3 or £st 425-8-8.

One sett to do payable to Thomas Manningham for CRs. 1298-12-0 or £st 146-2-2.

One sett to William Frankland Esqr. payable to Thomas Frankland for CRs. 1038-3-6 or £st 116-16.

One sett to Thomas Holmes payable to Thomas Holmes for CRs. 444-7-3 or £st 50.

The whole amount of bills of exchange granted by this ship is CRs. 102269-1-9 or £st 11505-5-4.

14. The great utility of having Europeans skilled in the Persian language, we have been more than ever sensible of during the late transactions with the country Government. To attain a proper degree of perfection either at Calcutta or our subordinates is almost impossible as it requires a closer attention than gentlemen engaged in other business can give, besides which the teachers in that tongue are not masters of it themselves. For these reasons we beg leave to recommend to Your Honours to send by the first ships bound to Bombay after the arrival of these advices five young gentlemen covenanted for our establishment to reside at Bussorah and to send annually two others upon the same footing that we may not be disappointed by casualties. These gentlemen to study the Persian tongue and nothing else, to rise in the service as your other servants do, receiving such allowance and salary during their stay as you may judge fit, and when qualified to be of use, to come to Bengall and take their standing according to their rank in the service, which we esteem to be the most effectual method of getting Europeans perfected in the true and genuine Persian speech and literature and we dare say will be attended with many future advantages to the Company's affairs.

15. The Board having appointed Mr. John Smith, one of our pilots, Deputy Master Attendant, upon the death of John Afton and his great care since in the charge of His Majesty's ship the *Kent* and in your marine meriting, in our opinion, Your Honours' notice, we take the liberty to recommend him to succeed to the office of Master Attendant in case of accident to Captain Henry Wedderburn, who is now in that post. Mr. Alexander Scott, now Head Pilot, having likewise acquitted himself to the general satisfaction of every body, both in Your Honours' service and in the care of His Majesty's ships under his charge, we must likewise recommend him to your notice.

16. The President desires his humble thanks may be return[ed] Your Honours for the additional allowance you have been pleased to make him. We have, agreeable to your orders, taken into consideration what gratuity should be made the Collector of the Customs. We find that the office will be attended with great trouble and require almost the whole attention of the person who is to execute it. We are, therefore, of opinion that an annual salary of two thousand rupees will be but a reasonable equivalent for the time and pains which a proper discharge of that post will require. It will be necessary likewise to have one or two places appointed for the export and import of all goods and merchandize with some apartments at or contiguous to those places for the Custom Master and his assistants to reside at.

17. Messrs Collet and Sykes are set out for Cossimbuzar, Messieurs Boddam and Playdell to Ballasore, Messieurs Sumner and Waller to Dacca, and Mr. Harry Smith to Luckypore in order to receive the charge of those factories and the effects seized there by the Nabob's officers. This occasions our letters, bills of exchange, and other papers to be signed by so few of the Board.

18. We have laden on this ship sundry goods and merchandize consigned to Your Honours as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed amounting to CR. . . . The tobacco and saltpetre being put on board at Fort St. George are left unvalued, as we do not know the prices of those articles.

19. We have likewise laden on her sundry stores for the use of your Plant St. Helena, master and bill of lading for which we have enclosed to the gentlemen there amounting to CR. . . .

20. Mr. Peter Anjatt, who dispatches this ship, will inform Your Honours of what may further occur from Ingellie.

21. We wish her a safe and speedy passage, and are

With the greatest respect,
May it please Your Honours,
Your faithful humble servants,

By Appointment James Johnston Millpatrick / Richard Becher / W. Frankland /
W. M. 1757

The Board, 23rd February 1757.

to act either in a civil or military station, in any other part of India, I shall with equal readiness embrace the opportunity.

3. I enclose Your Honors the continuation of our military proceedings, and a return of all the forces under my command remarking all casualties.

I am with the greatest respect,
Honorable,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Robert Clive.

Camp near Calcutta, 23rd February 1757.

12

LETTER DATED 28 FEBRUARY 1757

Despatch of Chinsura saltpetre.

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours,

1. The *Delawar's* dispatches went from hence the 24th instant by which ship we addressed you fully as per duplicate of her letter enclosed.

2. What saltpetre we could procure from Chinchura we have laden on the *Walpole* with some tincall as per invoice and bill of lading transmitted the Governor and Council of Fort St. George.

3. This ship we return to Fort St. George to be filled up and finally dispatched from thence to Great Britain. It was not in our power to send her away sooner, as her late arrival here and some other circumstances concurred to occasion this detention. We are after all under the necessity of taking thirty of her seamen out for the use of His Majesty's squadron.

4. Nothing material having occurred since closing the *Delawar's* letter, we beg leave to conclude and are with the greatest respect,

May it please Your Honours,
Your faithful humble servants,

Roger Drake Junr. / James Killpatrick / Richd. Becher / Paul Richard Pearkes / W. Frankland / W. Mackett.

Fort William, 28th February 1757.

LETTER DATED 26 MARCH 1757

Watson's refusal to confirm treaty of neutrality with the French—Nawab seeks help against approaching Pathan invaders—His promise of non-interference if English attack Chandernagore—The British attack and capture Chandernagore.

TO the Hon'ble the Secret Committee for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. The transactions in Bengall since the retaking of Fort William being of the greatest assistance to your affairs, we have judged it proper to dispatch advices of them *via* Bussorah to prevent the consequences of a disappointment should the *Delawar* not arrive in time. Enclosed is copy of our address by that ship with a translate of the articles of peace concluded with the Subah.

2. You will observe in our above mentioned letter, we advised of having wrote the French that we had no objection to treat with them for a neutrality within the Ganges if they were authorized to conclude one. In consequence of this, the deputies from the Director and Council at Chandernagore arrived at Calcutta. The questions we judged it necessary previously to ask, with their answers in writing annexed, are enclosed in this packet for your observation. When the whole was near settled and the treaty methodized and engrossed, we transmitted a copy of our proceedings herein to Admiral Watson and requested his confirmation of the neutrality agreeable to the 6th Article of the treaty. Copy of his reply we likewise enclose, by which you will observe he refused his assent to the neutrality for reasons set forth in his letter.

3. We then addressed Mr. Watson a second time and urged him to confirm the treaty which we esteemed the most beneficial step that could be taken for the Company's affairs in these Provinces. But if he persisted in refusing that confirmation, we then made it our request that he would assist us with his squadron to attack Chandernagore immediately as our waiting till answers arrived from Pondicherry without concluding any thing decisively, would prove very judicial [prejudicial] to the Company's affairs in general, but more particularly so on the Coast, where it was absolutely necessary some of the troops should return as soon as possible. Copy of his reply to this request of ours is likewise enclosed in this packet.

4. The next day we received a letter from Mr. Watts intimating that he believed the Nabob would not interfere in our disputes with the French if we attacked them. The same *cossides* brought letters to the Admiral and Colonel requesting their assistance against a body of Pytans which he had notice were marching to invade his territories. This being esteemed a favourable opportunity to obtain his consent for making an attack upon Chandernagore, the question was put in the Committee whether Admiral Watson should a third time be urged to confirm the neutrality immediately, or that treaty suspended for a time and another tryal made to get the Nabob's consent for attack.

Chandernagore. The majority of the Committee were for suspending the neutrality of which we advised the Admiral and requested his assent to the treaty in case the Nabob persevered in his resolution to allow of no hostilities between the English and French in his country. Mr. Becher being of a different opinion, his dissent is entered at large upon the face of our proceedings.

5. Colonel Clive immediately after marched up and encamped near Chandernagore on the 12th March. We received a letter from Mr. Watts wherein he expressly writes the Nabob had ordered him to inform the Admiral and Colonel that if we were determined to attack Chandernagore, he would not intermeddle. At the same time letters came from the Nabob himself to them repeating his request for our assistance and assuring them that he would not assist the French. These letters and some other circumstances induced us to address the Admiral giving him our reasons for the alteration of our sentiments in respect of the neutrality and desiring the assistance of his squadron to reduce Chandernagore. Copy of this letter with his answer are likewise enclosed. Mr. Becher declined signing this address as contrary to his way of thinking.

6. The place was accordingly invested by the land forces, soon after which the squadron moved up the river and, having surmounted the obstacles laid in their way by the sinking of some ships and vessels in the channel, they began the attack of the fort early on the 23rd instant, and we have the pleasure to advise of its being surrendered to Admiral Watson the same day.

7. A reinforcement of seepoys with some military stores are arrived from Madrass, but they have detained Mr. Brohier till they hear of our being in a state of sufficient tranquillity to carry on the works he may plan for the defence of our settlement against an European enemy.

8. We have the satisfaction to acquaint you that the Company's subordinates are all delivered up. That the goods and effects taken in them are likewise delivering and that there is a probability of the Company's being but small if any sufferers.

We are with the greatest respect,

Hon'ble Sirs,

Your most faithful and most obedient humble servants,

Roger Drake Junr. / Robert Clive / James Killpatrick / Richd. Becher.

Fort William, 26th March 1757.

14

LETTER DATED 28 MARCH 1757

Pearkes' answer to Holwell's allegations—His explanation corroborated by Coote.

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours,

The reason of my troubling Your Honours with this address is that there being no General Letter sent from the Governour and Council through whose channell I might regularly apply for redress from the misrepresentations of John Zephaniah Holwell Esqr. of my going up the Government of Fort William to him after Mr. Drake etc. had left the place as mentioned in Mr. Tooke's narrative which I had not an opportunity on account of my absence from Calcutta till lately of seeing for my own vindication, herein I have enclosed an attested copy given in at my request of this transaction by Mr. John Cooke, the Secretary, and Messrs Court and Knox, all members of the Council of War then held, by which Your Honours will see in how wrong a light this has been represented to Mr. Tooke and through his channell to Your Honours. I am with the greatest respect,

May it please Your Honours;

Your most obedient and most faithfull humble servant,
Paul Richard Pearkes.

Camp near Chinsserah, 28th March 1757.

Enclosure

TO Paul Richard Pearkes Esqr.

Sir,

Agreeable to your request I send you the particulars of what passed at the Council held the 19 June 1756, collected from the best of my remembrance.

After the Governor went off, the garrison and all call'd upon Mr. Holwell to take the command of the Fort upon him esteeming him, I suppose, the most capable to govern them at such a juncture. A Council being summoned Messrs Drake, Manningham, Frankland and Macket were suspended and, as well as I can remember, you were told the garrison had elected Mr. Holwell their Governor and were desired to subscribe to that election. You hesitated at appointing him Governor but acquiesced he should be Commander in Chief of the troops and garrison under you. This being absolutely declined by Mr. Holwell's taking the charge of the Government, the Council would appoint him without your consent and give their reasons for so doing. After some debate you agreed that Mr. Holwell should have charge of the Company's affairs as President and Governour during the troubles, and entered a minute to that purpose with your reasons for waving your seniority. These are all the circumstances as nearly as I can remember, and I believe pretty near the whole of what passed upon that occasion.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

John Cooke,
Secretary.

Calcutta, 31st March 1757.

I attest the whole of this letter to be true excepting the whole garrison electing Mr. Holwell Governor before any Council was held, at least it never came to my knowledge.

Richd. Court.

I attest without any exception.

John Knox.

15

LETTER DATED 31 MARCH 1757

Clive's report on Bengal affairs—Refers to Watson's refusal to confirm treaty of neutrality with the French—Pleads inability to return troops to Malabar Coast.

TO the Hon'ble Secret Committee for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable,

A conveyance offering for Bussorah I take the opportunity of forwarding copies of my advices to Fort St. George, since I had the honour of writing to you by the *Delawar* under date of 22 ultimo. They will fully acquaint you of our success against Chandernagore, and of the prosperous situation of your affairs in this province. I shall take the opportunity of addressing you more fully by His Majesty's sloop *King Fisher*, who will sail in few days for England.

I have the honour to be with the greatest respect,
Honorable,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,
Robert Clive.

Camp off Chandernagore, 31st March 1757.

Enclosure I

TO the Hon'ble George Pigot Esqr. etc., Gentlemen of the Select Committee of Fort St. George.

Hon'ble Sir & Sirs,

1. I had but just time to write you a very short letter by the *Success* galley after our attack upon the Nabob's camp. The *Delawar* has since sailed for England, and as my advices to the Secret Committee both by that ship and the *Syreen* sloop, who sailed some days before, were very full and reached as low as the 22nd February, I take the liberty to refer them for a particular account of occurrences till that time. For want of assistants to draw out fresh

copies, I am obliged to transmit to you my duplicates for England open for your perusal and request you will, afterwards, forward them by the *Walpole*.

2. By the conclusion of those advices you will observe that I had reason to think that all military operations were at an end in this Province, and that we might return to the Coast leaving a suitable force for the defence of the Company's estate here. Accordingly the 24th Febrary I addressed Admiral Watson on the subject, copy of which letter and his answer are inclosed. Though the large ships were intended to remain here till September, I hoped to prevail on him to let the King's troops proceed on the 20 gun ship and sloop and, as soon as I saw the execution of the Nabob's engagements in some forwardness, I intended to have followed with the grenadier company, half the train and half the seepoys embarked on the *Marlbro'* and *Protector*.

3. Fresh difficulties have been dayly started about the neutrality with the French which has occasioned it to remain unconcluded to this time. However, the articles were at last drawn up and sent to Admiral Watson for his approval, and it was expected that every thing would have been concluded to day; but in a letter just now received from the Admiral, he refuses to agree to any neutrality till the articles return ratified from Pondicherry which I imagine will put a stop to the whole negotiation and make us think of other measures for settling the affairs of this Province.

4. It is sometime since we had letters from the Nabob or even from Mr. Watts who attends the *Durbar* which leaves one at a loss how far the articles of the treaty have been fulfilled. As I had last night the pleasure of hearing that the *Mamooda* was already arrived in the river and that the *Revenge* and *Orissa* with the French prize taken on the Malabar Coast were at Ballasore I shall always be able to force a compliance from the Nabob should there be a necessity for it. My concern is that by this uncertainty of his ready performance of the articles, I can take no measures for the immediate return of part of the troops to the Coast though the season is so far advanced. A few days I think must set the matter in a clear light, and I hope time enough will be left me, in this monsoon, to dispatch to you whatever men can possibly be spared from hence. Should my hopes of a passage by sea be frustrated, I imagine a march from Ballasore to Vizagapatum might be effected. In my present situation, I can only assure you that I am perfectly sensible of the necessity of our speedy return and that whatever is practicable with prudence shall not be unattempted on my part.

5. I have had occasion to make several promotions among the officers, of which a list [is] enclosed, and I flatter myself they will meet with your approval and confirmation. Captain Maskelyne and Lieutt. Brooke, being in an ill state of health, have leave to return to the Coast on this ship.

6. Inclosed are the Paymaster's accounts for January, also first [one] bill of exchange on the paym[aster] of the King's regiment at Fort St. George for Arcot rupees 3500 advanced to Capt. Nies. Weller for subsistence to the King's troops on this expedition.

7. The seepoys being desirous of remitting some money for the maintenance of their families on the Coast, I have given bills on the President and Council of Fort St. George for Arcot rupees 6945 in favor of Purbudsing

of Fort St. David and three *havildars* with two seepoys now take passage on the *Walpole* to see the right distribution of it.

8. As I brought none of the *husbullhookums* with the *phirmaund*, I must recommend that some of the copies authenticated by the *Codgee* be immediately forwarded here, particularly those which relate to this Subah, and duplicates of them will be necessary for fear of miscarriage. It is not improbable but some difficulties will arise for want of them about the villages to be delivered out to us as they are not particularized in the *phirmaund*.

I have the honour to be with respect,

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Robert Clive.

Camp opposite Barnagul, 3rd March 1757.

Enclosure II

To the same.

Gentlemen,

1. Since my dispatch of the 3rd instant I am favoured with your letters of 21st and 28th February with the duplicates and triplicates by the ship *Sally* and *Betsey* schooner.

2. I acquainted you that the neutrality with the French was not likely to be concluded. I continued encamped on the same ground and the 7th instant received a letter from the Nabob desiring me to join him against the Aughwans, the van of whose army was attempting an irruption into this province. Accordingly, I began my march the next morning and thinking it a convenient opportunity to prevail on him to suffer us to take Chander-nagore, I wrote him word of our having endeavoured to conclude a neutrality with the French but that the Director and Council were not vested with proper power for that purpose, that whilst we were engaged at a distance assisting him against his enemies, the French joined by Monsr. Bussy might make an attempt on Calcutta and that therefore I should wait off Chander-nagore in hopes of receiving his leave to attack it. Accordingly, the 12th¹ I encamped at the back of it within a mile of the Fort, and the 13th² the Admiral receiving a letter from the Nabob, the purport of which was that we might act as we pleased with respect to the French, and having intelligence at the same time that the troops he had sent to their assistance were withdrawn, I summoned the place to surrender that night but received no answer. The next morning I attacked their western battery which they defended very briskly the whole day but at night abandoned it. A detachment I sent about noon to the southward took post in a garden near the Fort and within some of their batteries; the loss they had sustained at the western battery and the apprehension of their retreat being cut off by our detachment made them likewise desert that night all their works to the southward. Among the rest a strong half-moon on the river side mounting heavy metal and a battery of 3 guns playing down the channel both which must have annoyed our ships



Ahmad Shah Durrani

greatly in their passage up. The batteries to the northward were all quitted at the same time.

3. On the 19th the King's ships got to the Prussian Gardens about a mile from the Fort, but it was the 23rd before they attempted to pass the vessels which had been sunk by the enemy opposite the half-moon battery. They weighed at day break and in less than an hour were abreast of the Fort. A 13 inch mortar of ours with several cohorns and royals had played unnecessarily the whole night and when the ships weighed we opened two batteries very near the walls, one of 4 pieces of cannon, the other 3, all four and twenty pounders, and kept a continual discharge of musketry from the tops of the houses. In short the fire from the ships and the shore was so great that they capitulated in three hours. Copy of the terms granted them is inclosed. You will observe the surrender is made to Admiral Watson, but common report will be just in publishing how great a share the land forces had in this conquest.

4. There were above 500 Europeans in the Fort, 250 seepoys and 400 *tapasses*, *mostise* [*mustees*] etc., bearing arms. Of the Europeans about 125 have given their parole of honor, 300 sick and well are prisoners, and the rest were either killed in the siege, or made their escape.

5. I cannot at present give you an account of what value has been taken. The French Company had no great stock of merchandise remaining, having sold off most of their imports and even their investment for Europe, to pay off in part the large debts they had contracted. With respect to the artillery and ammunition we found, I cannot as yet transmit you the inventory, but they were not indifferently furnished. There is likewise a very fine marine arsenal well stocked. In short nothing could have happened more seasonable for the expeditious re-establishment of Calcutta than the reduction of Chandernagore. It was certainly a large, rich and thriving colony, and the loss of it is an unexpressible blow to the French Company.

6. I have the pleasure to acquaint you that the Nabob has wrote me a letter of congratulation on our success, and that this enterprize, so far from enraging him, has served to attach him more firmly to us. I am now using all my endeavours to prevail on him to deliver up, or suffer us to seize, the French and their property at all their out-settlements, in order effectually to root them out of this Province, if possible. I should before have mentioned that during the siege I received letter from the Nabob acquainting that he had accommodated matters with Ahmud Shah, the Aughwan, and therefore desiring we would stop our march as he had no further occasion for our assistance. He has fulfilled most of the articles of the treaty made with us. The three *lack* of rupees are already paid, and goods and money to a considerable amount delivered up to us at our several subordinates and I make little doubt but that all his engagements will be duly executed. On the whole I may affirm to you that the Company's affairs in this Province wear a very prosperous face. By the *Betsey* schooner, who called at Bandamalanka, we have information that Monsr Bussy had lost 200 Europeans, besides, many blacks in taking some Rajah's fort in that neighbourhood. If this news be true, he will find it difficult enough to maintain himself in Golcondah without detaching either to the northward or the southward.

7. The season now is so far advanced that the voyage to Madrass, if to [be] effected at all, must be long and painful to the troops. I therefore think it most advisable to remain with them till August, by which time all matters may be completely finished in this kingdom, and I may return to you with a considerable body of men.

8. Inclosed is a journal of military operations with a return of the forces under my command. You will observe I have been joined not only by the Bombay detachment, but by four companys of seepoys from the *Betsey* and *Sally*, and the King's troops from the *Cumberland*.

9. As we have been a good deal unsettled of late, what with marching and the siege, and some of my assistants have been indisposed, I must defer sending my February rolls and accounts. They shall be forwarded overland with those of March. I propose in a few days striking off all *batta* and retrenching every article of expence I possibly can.

10. The *King's Fisher* sloop is on her dispatch to Europe, by which I am about to acquaint the Secret Committee of our success, and the happy situation of their affairs in Bengal.

I have the honor to be with great respect,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Robert Clive.

Camp near Chandernagore, 30th March 1757.

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LETTER DATED 9 APRIL 1757

Proceedings since re-occupation of Calcutta despatched.

TO the Hon'ble the Secret Committee for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

The *Phoenix* schooner was dispatched a few days ago to the Gulph of Persia with advices of the peace concluded with the Nabob and of the capture of Chandernagore by Vice Admiral Watson and Colonel Clive on the 23rd ultimo. Duplicate of those dispatches were enclosed to the Company's agents at Gumbroon, to be forwarded by a separate conveyance, and triplicate thereof is transmitted in this packet.

By this vessel we likewise send you a sett of our proceedings since the re-establishment of this Presidency to which we beg leave to be referred for the particulars of our transactions, and are with the greatest respect,

Hon'ble Sirs,

Your most faithful and most obedient humble servants,
Roger Drake Junr. / Robert Clive / James Killpatrick / Richd. Becher.

Fort William, 9th April 1757.

LETTER DATED 10 APRIL 1757

Progress in restitution of Company's effects—Arrangements for provision of saltpetre—Appreciation of conduct of junior servants.

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours,

1. Our letter by the *Delaware* gave you a full account of our transactions to that time. Enclosed we transmit a triplicate of it for your observation since which we wrote you a short letter by the *Walpole*, which ship was dispatched from Ingelie on the . . . ultimo to Fort St. George, with a small quantity of saltpetre (all that we were able to procure) and some tincall to be filled up and finally dispatched from that Presidency to Europe.

2. We have acquainted Your Honours of our having sent several of your servants to the different subordinates to receive the factorys, books, papers, goods, moneys etc., which were taken there, and which by the treaty were to be returned. By the copies herewith transmitted of the letters received from the gentlemen at Cossimhuzar and Dacca, you will observe what progress has been made in the deliverys of your effects, and the opinion of the gentlemen at those places that Your Honors are likely to be little or no sufferers there. From Ballasore we learn the same good news; and hope Mr. Watts will be able very shortly to procure a full restitution of what was taken in Fort William and our *aurungs*, to facilitate and expedite which bussiness we have sent him up the *gomastahs* that were employed in our service, the receipts given by Manickchund¹ and others for the goods and money they took with an account of the outstanding balances which were collected by the Nabob, and have been regularly accounted for in his *sircarry*. We have likewise sent up an account of the export goods left in our *cottah*, what was found there at the retaking of the place and the deficiencies valued at the Company's prices of the respective sortments. We design likewise to transmit the accounts of the import ware-house, store, godown, *buxey connah* etc., drawn out in the same manner with directions to apply for the amount of the deficiencies in each office.

3. The *Marlbro'* was dispatched to Fort St. George a few days ago in her hallast, as we could not procure any saltpetre. We have desired Mr. Pigot² and his Council to return her to us directly with the consignments of woollen goods, copper etc., which they detained out of the *Walpole* and *Chesterfield*, as we shall have bales sufficient by September to lade her completly for Europe from hence.

4. As the provision of a large quantity of saltpetre for the homeward bound ships of this season and for the use of your other presidencies is of the utmost consequence, we have applied to the Directore and Council of Hughley to contract with us for sixty thousand maunds (60,000) of that article,

the late calamity making it dangerous to contract with any of our own merchants.

5. The gentlemen at Dacca having wrote us that their *delols* demand the same advances of *Puttunn*, which was made them before the troubles (and was by them refunded to the Nabob of that place) in order to comply with their contracts which they have renewed, Mr. Watts is ordered to get them bills upon Juggutseat's³ House for one *laack* of rupees (100,000) which they are directed to appropriate to the use of their investments with a caution to make as small advances as possible, and to take good security that the Company shall be no sufferers.

6. We have likewise ordered Mr. Watts to procure bills upon Juggutseat's House for fifty thousand rupees (50,000) for the use of Luckypore, at which factory we have stationed Messrs Verelst⁴ and Smyth, and have directed them to begin their purchases immediately, as we shall be in want of some coarse goods for the flooring of our September ship, and are not certain of getting any quantity of *gurrahs* by that time.

7. In our former letters we omitted to inform Your Honours that the extraordinary good behaviour of your junior servants during the siege of Calcutta, and their great forwardness to lend their assistance for the retaking of it, induced us to give several of them commissions on our establishment. Mr. William Ellis was one of them, and has had the misfortune to lose his leg in the skirmish of the 5th February. His gallant behaviour, both before and upon that occasion, entitles him to Your Honours' notice, and we beg leave to recommend him as very worthy of your favor, especially as the unfortunate circumstance above mentioned may possibly oblige him to return to Europe. Mr. William Tooke was wounded at Chandernagore and died the 24th March.

We are with the greatest respect,

May it please Your Honours,

Your most faithful and most obedient humble servants,

Roger Drake Junr. / Richd. Becher / W. Frankland / M. Collet / W. Mackett / P. Amyatt.

Fort William, 10th April 1757.

LETTER DATED 16 APRIL 1757

Nawab's dilatory attitude towards English demands—His objections to the expulsion of the French from Bengal—French contingent at Kasimbazar—Demolition of Chandernagore fortifications—Unlawful activities of the French prisoners on parole.

TO the Hon'ble Secret Committee for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable,

1. I addressed you fully by the *Delaware* the 22nd February, and by a conveyance which offered for Bussorah I wrote a short letter dated 31st March, just to acquaint you with the taking of Chandernagore and enclosed copies of my advices to Fort St. George of the 3rd and 30th of March, of which fresh copies are now transmitted, as they contain circumstantial accounts of my proceedings to the time they reach.

2. I continue encamped about a mile to the northward of Chandernagore, to which ground I found it necessary to move to put a stop to the disorders among the military by the too easy procurement of *arrack* in the town and at the same time I intended by this small advance northwards to strike some awe into the Nabob and facilitate our business at the *Durbar*.

3. Under pretence of being engaged on a hunting party, which lasted some days, he was very dilatory in answering our demands both with respect to the French subordinates and the articles of our treaty, which remained uncomplied with, and what letters at last came seemed in great measure trifling and evasive. However, I have since wrote to him in very strong terms, to which I have hitherto received no answer. But Mr. Watts' letters give me hopes that matters will be concluded to your satisfaction. Possibly before this dispatch is closed I may be able to give you an account of it.

4. The Nabob in some of his letters had started a difficulty as to driving the French out of the Province, on account of the injury it would be to the Mogul's revenues, upon which the Select Committee agreed that if the French subordinates were delivered up to us, the English Company would annually make good to the *Circar* the loss of custom on the French trade, so long as they should be kept out of the country. Before the Nabob was acquainted with this resolution, another difficulty was started about the debts owing by the French to his subjects, which I have likewise endeavoured to obviate by an offer of half of what may be found at their subordinates, and have recommended to Mr. Watts to compromise the matter as well as he could, for I am entirely of opinion that the whole property the French may at present have, is no ways a consideration for interrupting the great work of rooting them entirely out of Bengal. I must take the liberty to refer you to my Book of Country Letters for a more particular account of what has passed on these matters. Those from the Nabob will, in great measure, discover how weak and capricious a prince we have to deal with. The spring of most of his actions seems to be fear, and the French and their agents, well knowing his weakness, have given no small interruption to our business by reports of a French squadron and Bussy's army.

5. By the Nabob's delatory conduct I have been prevented from putting the troops into quarters, which I had fully intended to have done by this time, to prevent the heavy expence of *batta* and other charges attending a camp. I proposed to have sent the Bengall and Bombay troops to Calcutta, who would be full as many as could be accommodated there, and to have kept the King's and Madrass detachment at Chandernagore. But till we have finally settled with the Nabob, it would be highly improper to decamp, for from such a disposition as his we should certainly meet with greater impediment in our business by a step of that kind.

6. A small march to the northward, I am persuaded, would forward our affairs in the same degree, but I am unwilling to do any thing that looks like an infraction of the peace, unless absolutely necessitated to do it by repeated willful delays on his part.

7. What with the Company's servants and military withdrawn from Dacca and Jugdea, fugitives from hence, and English deserters, the French are able to muster at Cossimbuzar about 150 Europeans and 100 seepoys. It is said they have a design of retiring to Patna, and that they have applied to the Nabob for his permission. What his intentions may be in regard to them I cannot yet discern. He has assured me he has no thoughts of entertaining them in his service, but I am nevertheless something suspicious of it. It is certain that he keeps their factory invested, and that he has demolished some mud works they had begun to raise for its defence. And by a letter received that night from Mr. Watts dated 12th instant, I am advised that the Nabob had promised to send him Mr. Laws, the French Chief, the next day, to settle the terms of his capitulation with the English. Mr. Watts added that from what had passed in a conference between the Nabob and Omichund, he hoped every thing would end well, and that he should write me fully the next day, which letter I very impatiently expect.

8. It was agreed in a council of war that it was proper for many reasons to demolish Chandernagore fortifications, and the Select Committee concurring in the same opinion, it was determined on; and I shall take care to see it put in execution.

9. A bomb having fallen into the Secretary's office during the siege, many books and papers were burned and the rest (together with those of the other offices which were contiguous) were carried out and thrown promiscuously into a warehouse where they still remain locked up, and ready to be delivered to the gentlemen of Calcutta.

10. I now transmit you an inventory of the ordnance and military stores taken in Chandernagore, the greatest part of which will be very necessary for your garrisons of Calcutta and Cossimbuzar.

11. I likewise inclose a list of the vessels which were sunk by the French to hinder the passage of our ships up the river, or scuttled and ruined to the northward of the Fort. Out of these last the greatest part of the articles not liable to damage by water, such as cowries, butter etc., have been saved; but none of the vessels could be got off. You will observe how heavy a loss the French have suffered in their shipping alone, and as they were mostly loaded with provisions for the Islands, they must undergo some distress there for want of them. In short, when Chandernagore is considered as the granary of the Islands and Pondicherry as mistress of a great trade to Europe and round India, as a large and opulent colony already, and which seemed to promise to increase, the loss of it must be acknowledged a very severe blow to the French Company and nation.

12. The Governor and Council of Chandernagore with the rest of the gentlemen on parole having retired to Chineura, I had certain information that they not only harboured the French prisoners who escaped from us but furnished them with money, guides and even arms for their march to Cossimbuzar. The padres and other engines were employed to promote their

escape, and not less than 500 marched off one night from the hospital, most of whom were dispatched to Cossimbuzar, first receiving money and guides for that purpose from the Governour himself. In short, as I found it very prejudicial to your affairs to let them remain any longer at Chincura, particularly the Governour and Council who began to assemble and act as a body and by their correspondence kept up the spirit of Law's and his party and intimidated the Nabob with reports of Bussy's army being near, I summoned all the French on parole to repair to camp, and after acquainting them what unjustifiable practices had been carried on by them, I insisted that the Governour and Council should remove to Calcutta, and that the rest should live at Chandernagore or anywhere to the southward of Chincura, so that they were immediately under our inspection. The gentlemen of Council pleaded that they were not prisoners of war by the capitulation and made some difficulty in surrendering themselves till the Dutch Directore, in compliance with our demand, ordered them to leave his bounds. When they appeared, they pretended to be ignorant that they had given their parole not to act directly nor indirectly against His Brittannick Majesty or his allies, and affected a surprize when I shewed it them under their hands. As for the capitulation which they lay hold of, it is very certain they forfeited all benefit from it by opening their gates and letting out some officers and above sixty Europeans and burning and destroying a large quantity of valuable goods while the capitulation was in treaty, and even after it was agreed on and signed to by us.

13. The last advices from Fort St. George were of the 9th March, when all was quiet in the Carnatick. Two French Europe ships the *Duc de Berry* and *Le Siecle* arrived at Pondicherry the 3rd February bringing about 200 military with ammunition and warlike stores and a good deal of treasure which they were in much want of. They gave out that four Europe ships had stayed behind at the Islands on account of the sickness of their crews.

14. By an English vessel which touched at Bandamalanka about the middle of March, we have an account that Mons. Bussy had taken some Rajah's fort in that neighbourhood, but that it had cost him 200 Europeans and many blacks. It is said that among the rest Mons. Law was killed. I could wish that the chiefs of the northern settlements had taken opportunities of writing me what passed relating to Mons. Bussy, as I am at a loss what weight to lay upon the intelligence I receive from other hands.

15. With respect to the Rajhaam [*sic*]¹ who have entered Agra, and the apprehension of their marching this way begins to be renewed though the rains, which are soon come on, must prevent their designs for the present.

16. Before I conclude this letter I shall remark that considering the quiet situation of the Coast, and the service already done and still to do in this province, it is very happy for your affairs that the troops remained here.

I am with the greatest respect,

Honorable,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

Robert Clive.

Camp near Chandernagore, 16th April 1757.

LETTER DATED 18 APRIL 1757

Capitulation of Chandernagore—Nawab's engagements to expel the French from Bengal.

TO the Hon'ble Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable,

Give me leave to congratulate Your Honours on the taking of Chaudernagore. The destruction of this flourishing colony will, I am persuaded, be attended with many signal advantages to the trade of the East India Company.

The Nabob, in his last letter, has engaged in the strongest terms to drive the French entirely out of his dominions, and that our enemies shall be his. For all particulars of your affairs in these parts, give me leave to refer Your Honours to your Secret Committee.

I enclose Your Honours the continuation of our military proceedings with the return of the forces under my command; also a list of the prisoners taken in Chandernagore and an inventory of military stores etc., found there.

Being with the greatest respect,

Honourable,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

Robert Clive.

Camp near Chandernagore, 18th April 1757.

LETTER DATED 14 JULY 1757

Motives of the English in supporting Jafar Ali Khan—Siraj-ud-danlah's proposed conjunction with the French to overthrow the English—His negotiations with Bussy and Law—His unpopularity among his officers—English terms of settlement with Mir Jafar—Defeat of Siraj-ud-danlah at Plassey—Purpose of the proposed strengthening of garrison in Bengal—Jagat Seth's decision respecting payments of stipulated money by Mir Jafar.

TO the Hon'ble the Secret Committee for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. We have given you a full account of the state of these provinces and our transactions to the 26th of March, triplicate of which advices were forwarded by His Majesty's sloop-of-war, the *King Fisher*.

2. This letter is purposely to acquaint you of a happy revolution in the government of this kingdom in favour of Jassir Ally Khan, of the part we took in this affair, and our motives for it, and of the advantages obtained by espousing the present Subah's cause and placing the sway in his hands.

3. On the first of May Colonel Clive laid before us two letters he had received from Mr. Watts dated the 26th and 28th of April in which after some observations on the strangeness of the Nabob's behaviour and that all degrees of people were persuaded he would break with us upon the first favourable opportunity, he proceeds to inform the Colonel that Jassir Ally Khan had sent for Coja Petrus and given him to understand that most of the Nabob's principal officers were tired of his Government and ready to desert him and set up another, if we would countenance and support the confederacy with the assistance of our troops; that if we approved of this scheme, he desired our demands of what monies, lands etc., would induce us to engage in the business. In the last of the above mentioned letters, Mr. Watts repeats his apprehensions of the Nabob's design to break the treaty he made with us, urges a speedy answer might be sent to Jassir Ally Khan's proposal, and gives it as his opinion the project was feasible and might be executed without much difficulty.

4. As a proposition of this importance required our most serious consideration, we accordingly debated maturely the consequences of embracing this offer, and whether it should be accepted or declined. After a long consultation in which every reason for and against the scheme was collected and deliberately argued on, it was the unanimous sense of the Committee that a revolution in the Government (whatever hands it fell into) would be advantageous to the English; that there could be no hurt in trying to effect it, as our good understanding with Seraja Dowla was extremely precarious, and a rupture with him universally expected as soon as the squadron and army left us, and that by joining Jassir Aly Khan to supplant him, we should obtain, in all probability, very beneficial terms for the Company as well as live free of any apprehensions from the country government. But as these general reasons would not have justified our embarking the Company in such an undertaking and hazarding a breach with Seraja Dowla after concluding the peace we did, we think it necessary to recite at large our motives for engaging in a confederacy to change the Government and doubt not they will be esteemed sufficient by our employers to vindicate our proceedings.

5. First, it was evident to us from the whole tenour of the Nabob's behaviour since the peace, that we could not possibly rely on his friendship and that the treaty made with him would soon be violated when once he thought himself superior to us in strength. His delay in performing the agreement, many of the articles being at that time as far from being completed as at first, the evasion of giving us any satisfaction for the losses suffered by our inhabitants through Monickehund's means, the small sum of money which was pretended to be given credit for in his *Sircarry*, being scarce a tenth part of the loss sustained by the Europeans alone, with several other parts of his conduct, were so many convincing proofs that his friendship was unsincere and that he could not abide by his treaty which the exigency of his situation alone inclined him to make.

6. Secondly, there was the greatest reason to imagine he was an utter

enemy to the English, and privately endeavouring to bring in the French with promises of joining them against us. We were confirmed in this opinion from the great aversion he showed to our molesting the French at Chandernagore, his espousing and protecting Monsieur Law and his party after that place was taken, his keeping them in this part,¹ and the certain intelligence we have received from all quarters of his writing frequently to Monsr. Boussé, sending him large presents and inviting him to march this way. This was so notorious that it was publickly talked of and known, his *cossids* passing almost daily through Ballasore, and but a few days before some elephants and *seerpaws* arrived at that place within² passage to Monsr. Boussé's camp.

7. Lastly, there was great room to think he did not mean well by the orders he had given to fortifye Cutwah and the removing of Suffras Cawn's³ family from Dacca into Pooranea. The interruptions our boats and people met with in their way to Cossimbuzar contrary to the treaty of peace, with many actions of the same nature which put it beyond all doubt that his dislike and jealousy of our nation was rooted and that he would not miss any opportunity of ruining our affairs and extirpating the English out of his country: it was therefore but common prudence to prevent our own ruin, which could not be done so effectually any other way than by divesting the Nabob of the power of hurting us.

8. Another inducement to undertake this affair was the universal hatred of all sorts and conditions of men to Seraja Dowla. The affection of his army alienated from him by his ill usage of the officers, and a revolution so generally wished for, that it is probable it would be attempted (and perhaps successfully), even without our assistance, in which case it would have availed us but little; whereas by countenancing the confederacy and supporting it with our whole force, we might make our own terms, benefit our employers both by present and future advantages, do a general good, procure some satisfaction to the inhabitants of our colony for their heavy losses in the capture, establish the tranquillity of the country and by that means open a greater currency than ever to our business, and lastly, cut off the expectation of the French and keep them totally out of these dominions.

9. Motives so interesting and founded upon the prime law of self-preservation determined us to embrace the proposal made by Jaffir Aly Khan provided adequate terms were granted in consideration of entering into a fresh war with the Nabob, whose consequence must have proved very detrimental to our affairs, if the success of it had not been answerable to our expectations. Accordingly, after some consideration the following demands were esteemed equitable and reasonable to be asked *vizt.*, that our *phirmaund* and the privileges acquired by the treaty with Seraja Dowla be confirmed and punctually complied with; that restitution be made of the Company's whole loss, and the loss of the European inhabitants of Calcutta; that our bounds be augmented; that we have liberty to fortifye Cossimbuzar; that an offensive and defensive alliance be made against all enemies of both parties, as well Europeans as others, and that the French be not permitted to resettle in these provinces; that the Moors do not fortifye within twenty miles of the river side from Hughly down to Ingellie; and that the revenues of a certain tract of land be made over and assigned to us in consideration



Watts concluding the treaty with Mir Jafar and his son Miran, 5 June 1757

of our maintaining a good body of troops. These terms were accordingly transmitted to Mr. Watts to get Jaffir Aly Khan to assent to them.

10. On the 17th May Colonel Clive laid before us a letter from Mr. Watts with such articles of agreement as Jaffir Aly Khan's confident had assured him would be accepted of, and requesting that if they were approved of by the Admiral and Committee, they might be engrossed in cypher, signed and sealed by them, and returned to him to get them executed by Jaffir Aly Khan. As those articles were greatly more advantageous for the Company than the terms we had demanded, there could be no objection to them on our part. They were accordingly approved of and ordered to be engrossed with some alterations relating to the satisfaction of private sufferers. The substance of them you will find in the translate of the Persian treaty herewith transmitted for your observation.

11. In order to prevent the least suspicion of what we were doing, our troops were ordered into quarters, part of them in Calcutta and part in Chandernagore, and the Nabob wrote to (agreeable to Jaffir Aly Khan's advice) to recall his army encamped at Plassey and Daudpore.

12. Matters being advanced thus far, it was next judged proper to obtain, if possible, a personal conference between Jaffir Aly Khan and some person of trust and confidence on our part. To effect this without alarming the Nabob's suspicions, it was proposed for the Collonel to send the Nabob a letter by Mr. Scrafton's hands, acquainting him that he had an affair of consequence to communicate, by which means Mr. Scrafton might have an opportunity of seeing Jaffir Aly Khan and confer with him on the plan of operations for executing our project, to assure him of our attachment to his interest, and to use his endeavours to get such security as could well be given without discovering the scheme.

13. On the 19th May the treaty being engrossed in the manner Mr. Watts had requested, it was signed and sealed by the Admiral and the members of the Committee.

14. From that time till the 11th June, the Colonel received several letters from Mr. Watts confirming us in the opinion we had conceived of the Nabob's writing to Monsr. Boussé to march this way and extirpate the English. There letters likewise gave a detail of the progress of our negotiation with Jaffir Aly Khan, who, on the 5th ultimo, signed, sealed and solemnly swore in the presence of Mr. Watts, to abide by the treaty he had made with the English, and to perform punctually the agreement on his part, as soon as he was in possession of the Subahship.

15. Mirza Omar Beg⁴ on the 11th ultimo arrived at the French Gardens where we assembled a Committee and had the treaty in Persian executed by Jaffir Aly Khan delivered us by the above mentioned person, who gave us the greatest assurance of his friendship and esteem for the English, that there would be very little difficulty in effecting a change of government and that we might depend upon it, Jaffir Aly Khan would be punctual in performing every article of his agreement.

16. Mr. Watts, his letters all urging the immediate march of our troops towards Muxadavad, and the Committee for many reasons judging it best to lose no time as this appeared the most favourable conjuncture we could

have to succeed in our enterprise and as a delay might not only produce a discovery of our confederacy and consequently the ruin of our project, but would greatly diminish our strength, while the Nabob would have time to augment his army by calling in his troops from all quarters, and enlisting others, it was therefore resolved to set out immediately, and on the 13th of June our troops began their march.

17. On the 19th or 20th June Cutwah town and fort (a strong place) was taken by our troops where the Collonel remained two or three days to get some advice or letter from Jaffir Aly Khan having received but one on his way up. The 26th June we had the pleasure to receive a letter from him with the news of a compleat victory obtained over Seraja Dowla in the plains of Plassy, his whole army and himself being fled and we in possession of his camp, ordnance etc., that Jaffir Aly Khan, Roydoolub and Lutter Cawn^s had observed a neutrality during the engagement and were with the Collonel at the time of writing of his letter.

18. On the 29th we received the agreeable news of Jaffir Aly Khan being in possession of the city and *kila* of Muxadavad, that Seraja Dowla had withdrawn privately, but it was not doubted would be soon taken, and that Mohunloll was prisoner at the city. In a letter of the 30th June, Collonel Clive acquainted us of his having seated Jaffir Aly Khan in the *mussnud*, and that he had received the homage of his zemindars and people as Subah of the provinces of Bengal, Bahar and Orissa.

19. We now beg leave to congratulate you, Hon'ble Sirs, and the Company on our success in this important business and the happy change of Government established in these dominions so fortunately and speedily. Our loss has been but very trifling, not above 20 Europeans being killed and wounded.

20. The advantages of the treaty made with the present Nabob are too apparent to want any comment, if the terms are punctually complied with, which we have not the least reason to doubt. But we must take the liberty to recommend to your serious consideration the preservation of the grants and privileges acquired by this revolution, which can be done only by keeping up a large body of troops in the country. As it is the Company's interest to exert themselves on this occasion, we make no doubt you will immediately enlist and send out a sufficient number of recruits to make a respectable garrison in Bengal, which should consist of a body of two thousand Europeans at least, which expences, we think, will be overpaid by the advantages of our acquisitions. We flatter ourselves, therefore, you will not, on any account neglect the sending such a body of Europeans as we have mentioned to be necessary. This, we are of opinion, will be the only method of preventing in future the encroachments of the country government, to make our friendship and alliance courted, to carry on our trade on the securest footing and to oppose the re-settlement of the French in these provinces.

21. Upon examining the treasury Roydoolub pretended there was but one crore and fifty laacks of rupees in ballance. This obliged Colonnell Clive to go to the city himself in order to be near the Nabob. His letter of the 30th ultimo informs us, to put an end to all heart burning and jealousies

between us and the Nabob, he agreed to refer the affair to Juggutseat's arbitration, that the Nabob and he accordingly went there and after some consideration Juggutseat desired the Collonel would not insist immediately on the full payment of the sums stipulated in the treaty but that half should be made good without delay in money and jewels, the other half to be paid in three years at three annual and equal payments. These terms the Collonel consented to as they were better than he expected, considering the lowness of the Nabob's treasury. Since which we learn that one third in specie of the whole was actually embarking on boats for Calcutta.

22. But as the bad consequences of deferring the payment of any part of the money appeared to us too evident to be allowed of if it could be avoided, we have wrote the Collonel our sentiments thereon, and desired the gentlemen of the Select Committee who are at Muxadavad to use their best endeavours to obtain immediate payment, but if that is not to be done, to get some good security from the Nabob to abide by his contract; that for our parts we should prefer Juggutseat's engaging to see it punctually made good, and next to that security a mortgage of such lands contiguous to Calcutta whose revenues will be equal to the sum to be received by us annually.

23. Having given you, Hon'ble' Sirs, a very particuar detail of our transactions since engaging in the confederacy to set up Jaffir Aly Khan, we have reason to flatter ourselves you will approve of our conduct through the whole of this nice but necessary step.

24. Mr. Manningham is gone up to Muxadavad to assist in hastening the completion of the treaty and settling such matters as relate to the mercantile part of it.

25. By a letter from Collonel Clive dated the 30th June late at night, we learnt that Seraja Dowla was taken, and by another letter of the 4th instant, we are informed of his being cut off by Jaffer Aly Khan's son and others.

26. Tranquillity being established by the change we have advised of, people's minds more at ease, and no apprehensions of trouble from the Government remaining, we have begun the purchase of this year's investment by sending money to the different *aurungs*, and hope, with the assistance of the goods received from Seraja Dowla at our subordinates and *aurungs*, to be able to send the Company a handsome return from this Presidency.

27. As the sum of money to be received from the Nabob, even if Juggutseat's determination is to stand good, will greatly exceed our demands for the investment, we purpose to advertise that all interest notes will be discharged upon being tendered, and that in case the proprietors do not sue for payment before the 1st day of October next, the interest will cease from that day. This will ease the Company of a very heavy burden, and we hope will prove very agreeable news. In this place we must beg leave to remark that by Juggutseat's determination the Company are to receive for three years successively the sum of sixteen laacks and two thirds of rupees in specie which, with the sale of your annual imports and the amounts of bills of exchange that we shall be under a necessity of granting, will be full sufficient, we imagine, for the respective investments of those thr years,

without obliging the Company to run the risque of any bullion for the supply of the Presidency till that term of years is expired.

28. These advices are dispatched in triplicates to the Select Committee of Bombay to be forwarded to Europe by the quickest conveyances either by shipping or by land. We shall endeavour to send copies to Fort St. George to be forwarded from thence to Europe, and shall dispatch the *Diligent* schooner about the middle of next month directly home with another copy of this packet by which means we hope the Company will get the intelligence of what has happened in Bengall before the ships of next season leave England.

29. Since writing thus far, the money from Muxadavad is arrived.

We are with the greatest respect,
Hon'ble Sirs,

Your most faithful humble servants,
Roger Drake Junr. / Richd. Becher.

Fort William, 14th July 1757.

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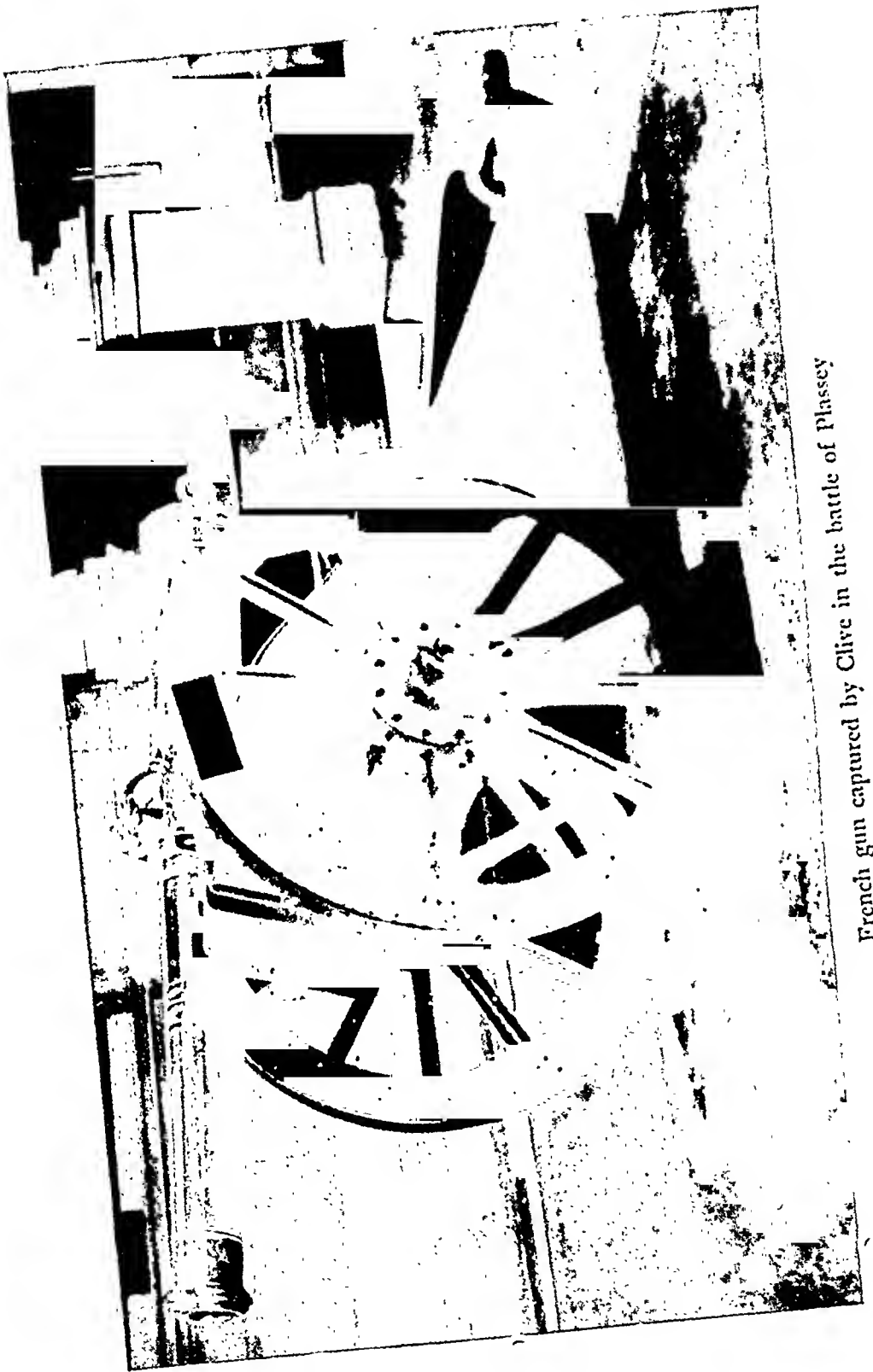
LETTER DATED 26 JULY 1757

Clive's description of the battle—Coronation of Mir Jafar—Terms of treaty with him—Settlement respecting his payment of stipulated money—Murder of Siraj-ud-daulah—Pursuit of French fugitives under Law—French participation in the destruction of Kasimbazar factory.

TO the Hon'ble the Secret Committee for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. By the *King's Fisher* sloop-of-war under date 16th April, I gave you an account of the taking of Chandernagore. The subject of this address is an event of much higher importance, no less than the entire overthrow of Nabob Serajah Dolaw, and the placing of Jaffier Ally Cawn on the throne. I intimated in my last how dilatory Surajah Dolaw appeared in fulfilling the articles of the treaty. This disposition not only continued, but we discovered that he was designing our ruin by a conjunction with the French. To this end, Monsr. Busie was pressingly invited to come into the province and Monsr. Laws of Cossimbuzar (who before had been privately entertained in his service) was ordered to return from Patna. About this time some of his principal officers made overtures to us for dethroning him. At the head of these was Jaffir Ally Cawn, then *Buxey* to the army, a man as generally esteemed as the other was detested. As we had reason to believe the disaffection partly general, we soon entered into engagements with Jaffir Ally Khan to put the crown on his head. All necessary preparations being completed with the utmost secrecy, the army consisting of about 1000 Europeans and 2000 seepoys with 8 pieces of cannon marched from Chandernagore the



French gun captured by Clive in the battle of Plassey

13th June, and arrived the 18th at Cutwaw Fort which was taken without opposition. The 22nd in the evening we crossed the river, and landing on the island marched straight for Placis Grove, where we arrived by one in the morning. At day break we discovered the Nabob's army moving towards us, consisting, as we since found, of about 15,000 horse and 35,000 foot with upwards of 40 pieces of cannon. They approached apace, and by six began the attack with a number of heavy cannon supported by their whole army and continued to play on us very briskly for several hours during which our situation was of the utmost service to us, being lodged in a large grove surrounded with good mud banks. To succeed in an attempt on their cannon was next to impossible as they were planted in a manner round us, and at a considerable distance from each other. We therefore remained quiet in our post in expectation of a successful attack upon their camp at night. About noon the enemy drew off their artillery and retired into their camp, being the same which Roydunb¹ had left but few days before, and which he had fortified with a good ditch and breastwork. We immediately sent a detachment accompanied with 2 field pieces to take possession of a tank with high banks which was advanced about 300 yards beyond our grove, and from whence the enemy had considerably annoyed us with some cannon managed by Frenchmen. This motion brought them out a second time, but on finding them make no great effort to dislodge us, we proceeded to take possession of one or two more eminences lying very near an angle of their camp; from whence and an adjacent eminence still in their possession, they kept a smart fire of musketry upon us. They made several attempts to bring out their cannon but our advanced field pieces played so warmly and well upon them that they were always drove back. The horse exposing themselves a good deal on this occasion many of them were killed and among the rest four or five officers of the first distinction, by which the whole army being visibly dispirited and thrown into some confusion, we were encouraged to storm both the eminence and the angle of their camp, which were carried at the same instant with little or no loss, though the latter was defended (exclusive of blacks) by 40 French and 2 pieces of cannon and the former by a large body of blacks both foot and horse. On this a general rout ensued, and we pursued the enemy six miles, passing upwards of 40 pieces of cannon they had abandoned, with an infinite number of *hackaries* and carriages filled with baggage of all kind. Surajah Dowla escaped on a camel and reaching Muxadavad early the next morning dispatched away what jewels and treasure he conveniently could and he himself followed at midnight with only two or three attendants.

2. It is computed there were killed of the enemy about 500. Our loss amounted to only 22 killed and 50 wounded and those chiefly blacks. During the warmest part of the action we observed a large body of troops hovering on our right who proved to be our friends, but as they never discovered themselves by any signal whatever we frequently fired on them to make them keep their distance. When the battle was over they sent a congratulatory message and encamped in our neighbourhood that night. The next morning Jaffir Aly Khan paid me a visit and expressed much gratitude for the service done him assuring me in the most solemn manner that he would faithfully perform his engagements to the English. He then proceeded to the city which he reached some hours before Surajah Dolaw left it.

3. As immediately on Surajah Dowla's flight Jasseir Ally Khan found himself in peaceable possession of the palace and city, I encamped without to prevent the inhabitants from being plundered or disturbed first at Maudipoor and afterwards at the French Factory at Sydabad. However, I sent forward Messrs Watts and Walsh to enquire into the state of the treasury and inform me what was transacting at the palace. By their representations I soon found it necessary for me to be present on many accounts. Accordingly the 29th I entered the city with a guard of 200 Europeans and 300 seepoys and took up my quarters in a spacious house and garden near the palace. The same evening I waited on Jasseir Ally Khan who refused seating himself on the *musnud* till placed on it by me, which done he received homage as Nabob from all his courtiers. The next morning he returned my visit, when after a good deal of discourse on the situation of his affairs, I recommended to him to consult Juggutseat on all occasions who, as a man of sense and by far of the greatest property among all his subjects, would give him the best advice for settling the kingdom in peace and security. On this he proposed that we should immediately set out together to visit him, which being complied with, solemn engagements were entered into by the three parties for a strict union and mutual support of each other's interest. Juggutseat then undertook to use his whole interest at Delhi (which is certainly very considerable) to get the Nabob acknowledged by the Mogul and our late grants confirmed, likewise procure for us any other *phirmaunds* we might have occasion for.

The substance of the treaty with the present Nabob is, *vizt*.

1st. Confirmation of the mint and all other grants and privileges in the treaty with the late Nabob.

2nd. An alliance, offensive and defensive, against all enemies whatever.

3rd. The French factories and effects to be delivered up and they never permitted to resettle in any of the three provinces.

4th. One hundred lack of rupees to be paid to the Company in consideration of their losses at Calcutta and the expences of the campaign.

5th. Fifty lack of rupees to be given to the English sufferers at the loss of Calcutta.

6th. Twenty lack to Jentoos, Moors etc., black sufferers at the loss of Calcutta.

7th. Seven lack to the Armenian sufferers. These three last donations to be distributed at the pleasure of the Admiral and the gentlemen of Council including me.

8th. The entire property of all lands within the Moratto Ditch which runs round Calcutta to be vested in the Company, also six hundred yards all round without the said Ditch.

9th. The Company to have the Zemmindarry of the country to the south of Calcutta lying between the lake and river and reaching as far as Culpee, they paying the customary rents paid by former zemmindars to the government.

10th. Whenever the assistance of the English troops shall be wanted, their extraordinary charges to be paid by the Nabob.



Meeting of Lord Clive and Nawab Mir Jafar two days after the battle of Plassey for the settlement of treaties for the future administration of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, 1757

11th. No forts to be erected by the Government on the river side from Hughley downwards.

12th. The foregoing articles to be performed without delay as soon as Jaffier Ally Khan becomes Subah.

4. On examining the treasury there were found about 150 lack of rupees, which being too little to answer our demands, much less leave a sufficiency for the Nabob's necessary disbursements, it was referred to Juggutseat as a mutual friend to settle what payment should be made to us, who accordingly determined that we should immediately receive one half of our demand, $\frac{2}{3}$ rds in money and $\frac{1}{3}$ rd in gold and silver plate, jewels and goods, and that the other half should be discharged in three years at three equal and annual payments.

5. The part to be paid in ready money is received and safely arrived at Calcutta, and the goods, jewels, etc. are now delivering over to us. The major part of these will be bought back by the Nabob for ready money and on the remaining part there will be little or no loss. A large proportion was proposed to have been paid us in jewels but, as they are not a very saleable article, we got the amount reduced one half and the difference to be made good in money.

6. It is impossible as yet to form a judgement how much the granted lands will produce you as the Europeans are quite ignorant of the extent of the country between the river and lake. But in order to give you some idea of the value I will venture to estimate it at 10 lack per annum. An officer on the part of the Nabob is already dispatched to Calcutta to begin the survey in company with one of ours.

7. Surajah Dolaw was not discovered till some days after his flight. However, he was at last taken in the neighbourhood of Rajahmaul and brought to Muxadavad the 2nd instant late at night. He was immediately cut off by order of the Nabob's son, and as it is said without the father's knowledge. Next morning the Nabob paid me a visit and thought it necessary to palliate the matter on motives of policy, for that Surajah Dolaw had on the road wrote letters to many of the zemindars of the army, and occasioned some commotion among them in his favour.

8. Mons. Laws and his party came down as far as Rajahmaul to Serajah Dolaw's assistance, and were within 3 hours march of him when he was taken. As soon as they heard of his misfortune they returned by forced marches, and by the last advice had passed by Patna on the other side of the river. A party of Europeans and seepoys were quickly dispatched after them. But I am doubtful if we shall be able to overtake them before they get out of the Nabob's dominions. Strong letters have been wrote from the Nabob to the Naib of Patna to distress them all in his power and take them prisoners if possible, a compliance with which I am in impatient expectation of.

9. I ought to observe that the French I spoke of in the action were some fugitives from Chandernagore who had assembled at Sydadabad. It was by their advices and indeed by their hands that the English factory at Cossimbuzar was burned and destroyed after our gentlemen had quitted it on the renewal of the troubles.

10. The present Nabob has every appearance of being firmly and

durably seated on the throne. The whole country has quietly submitted to him and even the apprehension of an inroad from the side of Delhi is vanished, so that this great revolution, so happily brought about, seems compleat in every respect. I persuade myself the importance of your possessions now in Bengal will determine you to send out not only a large and early supply of troops and good officers but of capable young gentlemen for the civil branches of your business.

11. I shall shortly have an opportunity of writing by an express vessel intended to be dispatched from Calcutta. But for fear of accidents I forward these advices by way of Bombay.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect,
Honorable Sirs,
Your most obedient and most humble servant,
Robert Clive.

Muxadavad, 26th July 1757.
[Triplicate]

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LETTER DATED 6 AUGUST 1757

Law's escape towards Oudh—Copies of Siraj-ud-daulah's letters to the French—Particulars of payments made by Mir Jafar—Letters of Marhatta chiefs promising help to the English against Siraj-ud-daulah—French activities in the Deccan—Request for establishing a strong garrison repeated.

TO the Hon'ble the Secret Committee for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. My letter of the 26th July three copies of which were forwarded by the way of Bombay and Fort St. George, and a fourth is now enclosed, contains the particulars of the great and happy revolution in this kingdom effected by your arms; very little has since happened in the military province for me to acquaint you with.

2. Notwithstanding the urgent letters wrote both by the Nabob and myself to Ramnarain,¹ the Naib of Bahar, to distress and impede the French in their rout through his country, they were suffered to pass unmolested; whether through inclination or cowardice I cannot yet determine. By my last advices they had reached Benaras, a city about 60 miles beyond the limits of this Government, belonging to a rajah tributary to the Nabob of Owd, in whose service they will probably be entertained. Mr. Law in answer to some overtures I made to him and his party for surrendering themselves seems to build on such a support. The detachment sent after them consisting of 200 Europeans and 500 sepoy arrived the 3rd of this month at Chuppra, about 36 miles on the other side of Patna and within 16 of the

boundary of the Nabob's dominions, beyond which they have orders not to pass. About twenty of the French deserted to us and though the principal design of taking the whole party prisoners has miscarried through Ramnarain's misbehaviours, yet I have reason to think the expedition has been of some service to the Nabob in awing the province of Bahar into submission, a country notorious for its turbulence and disobedience to the Soobah.

3. Some of Surajah Dowla's letters to the French having fallen into my hands, I enclose a translate of them (Paper N. 5) just to shew you the necessity we were reduced to of attempting his overthrow. I was fully apprized of all his proceedings by means of Mr. Watts with whom I kept up a very full correspondence, too voluminous indeed to transmit you a transcript of, at least at this opportunity. I must here do that gentleman the justice to say his services at the *Durbar* have been very great, as well in promoting the ruin of the French as in negotiating the treaty with Jaffier Ally Cawn; Omichund likewise had merited well while acting in concert with Mr. Watts but I had reason to think his intriguing disposition was carrying him too far in the pursuit of his private interest; therefore recommended to him a visit of devotion to Malda. He is a person capable of rendering you great services while properly restrained, therefore not to be wholly discarded.

4. On my first arrival at Cossimbuzar I desired the gentlemen of the Select Committee would send up Mr. Manningham to assist with Mr. Watts in drawing up a treaty with the present Nabob more formal than that he first signed, to see proper *perwannahs* issue for the mint and the granted lands and in short, to attend to the civil parts of business which were to be carried on here. Permit me therefore to leave to the gentlemen of the Select Committee the account of all such transactions. I will only observe that since my last advice about sixteen lack sixty five thousand rupees has been paid by the Nabob in ready money on account of the goods we were to have received; jewels to the amount of about 3 lacks are already delivered to us and we are still to receive silver to the amount of about 2 lacks, and fine muslins, shawls etc., about 4 lacks; the remainder is promised us in ready money as soon as some treasure daily expected from Purnea arrives. In my last when I acquainted you with the articles of the treaty I forgot to mention a promise from the Nabob to the navy and army of 50 lacks, which is subject to the same periodical payments as the other donations and has a concern in the above mentioned receipts.

5. In the book of country letters now forwarded are translates of those I have wrote to the Nanna of the Marottoes², Salabud Jung³ and the Moghol (No. 189, 200 and 202). Some days before my setting out on the expedition to Muxadavad arrived letters from the Nanna directed to the Governour, desiring the alliance of the English, and that we would enter into no treaty with Surajah Dowla, for that he would engage to enter the province with 150,000 Marottoes and make good to us double of all the losses we had sustained, that as we were powerful in ships we might keep out the French by sea, and he would take care to do it by land. No other use was made of the letter at that time than to send it to Surajah Dowla in order to obtain his confidence, and prevail on him to withdraw his army from Placis, where they had been encamped for some time through mistrust of us. You will observe I have wrote to the Nanna of our strict alliance with the present Nabob, and that

I have engaged his promise that the customary annual *chout* shall be duly paid.

6. You will hear from others the particulars of the loss of Bandamalanka, Nelhipelli, and Vizagapatam. It is much to be regretted that the escape of the garrisons of the two last was not timely provided for: Mr. Perceval and the officers from Vizagapatam being arrived here on parole, a court of enquiry is ordered on the latter.

7. My last advices from Fort St. George are of the 29th June, when the English and French armies were encamped near one another in the neighbourhood of Wandiwash. They were rather more numerous in Europeans, but we had the advantage in blacks. It was generally thought that no action would be attempted on either side till one or the other was reinforced from Europe. Before our army took the field, the French had made an unsuccessful attempt on Trichinopoly. The most disagreeable circumstance that has happened in that quarter is the revolt of the Madura and Nelloor countries through the perfidy of two of the Nabob's brothers, Mauphos Cawn⁴ and Nazabulla Cawn⁵, who were on the point of being chastised when the French marched against Trichinopoly and thereby put a stop to our proceedings.

8. The gentlemen of Fort St. George have been very urgent with me for my returning with the troops to the Coast, judging I apprehend that after the conclusion of the peace with Surajah Dowla and the reduction of Chander-nagore there was little left to be done in Bengal. A sufficient knowledge of Surajah Dowla's disposition must have induced another way of thinking. It was very early visible he bore a deep resentment against the English, and that all his compliances sprung solely from fear. To have weakened our force would have been loosing the reins to his malice and insolence. The French subordinates were still to be destroyed and if possible themselves totally extirpated from his kingdom. Some of the capital points of the treaty were not complied with, such as putting us in possession of the villages, admitting the currency of our *siccas*, and restoring to us such part of the plunder of Calcutta as was brought to account in the *Circarry* books. These circumstances, without mention of the alarms of Mons. Busie's marching this way, and being joined by the Nabob, will shew the necessity there was for detaining the troops, and I flatter myself the great event which has since happened will fully justify my conduct both to you and the gentlemen of Fort St. George.

9. I hope by this time the Coast has received a considerable reinforcement from Europe, the late arrival of your shipping giving room to conclude that they sailed in a fleet, accompanied by men of war. Detaching troops from hence to Madrass at this season can be of little use there on account of the approaching rains and might be of fatal consequences to the affairs of this kingdom where the Government is so newly settled that its enemies have hardly had time to declare themselves. The disposition of the Naib of Patna, the Nabob of Owd and the Marottoes is not yet clearly known. For these reasons it may be necessary to delay the return of the Madrass troops till December or January, when their passage will cost them but few days. However the advices from the Coast we hourly expect will greatly serve to determine what measures are best to be pursued. For my own part, be

assured gentlemen, that it is solely a desire of seeing your affairs, important as they now are, firmly established that detains me in Bengal. The Nabob's generosity has enabled me to live with satisfaction in England, and the frequent attacks I have here of a nervous disorder make me very desirous of an opportunity of changing this climate.

10. I have in all my letters pressed for a large force to be sent to this settlement and I don't doubt, gentlemen, but the importance now of your possessions as well as expectations will induce you to use your utmost efforts to secure them. The Nabob who looks upon us as his chief support is very desirous that we should have a strong fort and garrison near his capital. Our old factory at Cossimbuzar is improper on many accounts. Mr. Brohier therefore is shortly to come up from Calcutta to pitch on the best spot for a fortification and to set about raising it with the utmost expedition. I think it necessary to remark that one or more capable engineers should be sent out. Was an accident to happen to Mr. Brohier here or Mr. Call at Fort St. George, we should be at an absolute loss to carry on your works at one or the other place.

I have the honour to be with the greatest respect,
Honorable Sirs,

Your most obliged humble servant,
Robert Clive.

Muxadavad, 6th August 1757.

Enclosure

No 1. Supposed to be wrote the latter end of February 1757.

Surajah Dowla to the exalted in station, greatest among great officers,
the support of friendship, Mons. Busie Bahadre.

These disturbers of my country, the Admiral and Colonel Clive *Sabut Jung*, whom bad fortune attends, without any reason whatever are warring against *Zubdatoot Tooju* Monsr. Rennault,^e the Governor of Chandernagore. This you will learn from his letters. I, who in all things seek the good of mankind, assist him in every respect and have sent him the best of my troops that he may join with them and fight the English and if it becomes necessary I will join him myself. I hope in God these English who are unfortunate will be punished for the disturbances they have raised. Be confident. Look on my forces as your own. I have wrote you before for two thousand soldiers and musquetiers under the command of one or two trusty chiefs. I persuade myself you have already sent them as I desired. Should you not, I desire you will do me the pleasure to send them immediately. Further particulars you will learn from Monsr. Rennault. Oblige me with frequent news of your health.

No. 2. Supposed to be wrote about the middle of March 1757.

Surajah Dowla to the Distinguished of the Empire, the Sword of
Riches, the Victorious in War, Monsr. Busie Bahadre.

I have with great pleasure received news of your being arrived near the Orissa country with a powerful army of soldiers, *Telingas* etc., to the

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assistance of the Commander of Chandernagore. I promise myself great pleasure in seeing you; a meeting will confirm the great friendship between us. I have ordered the naibs of the Soubah, the *Phousdar* and zemindars of Midnapore, to wait on you and assist you in your march.

No 3. Supposed to be wrote the latter end of March 1757.
Surajah Dowla to Mons. Busie Bahadre etc.

I am advised that you are arrived at Echapore. This news gives me pleasure. The sooner you come here the greater satisfaction I shall have in meeting you. What can I write of the perfidy of the English? They have without ground picked a quarrel with Monsr. Rennault and taken by force his factory. They want now to quarrel with Monsr. Law, your Chief at Cossimbuzar, but I will take care to oppose and overthrow their proceedings. When you come to Ballsore I will then send Mons. Law to your assistance unless you forbid his setting out. Rest assured of my good will towards you and your Company and to convince you of my sincerity I now send *perannahs* to Didarally and Ramagee Pundit and to Rajaram Sing that as soon as you may enter the province that they may meet and lend you all possible assistance and not on any pretence impede your march.

No. 4. Supposed to be wrote the latter end of March 1757.
Surajah Dowla to Rajaram Sing.

You write me that Mons. Busie is arrived at Echapore, 6 days journey on this side Chicacul and 6 days on the other side Cuttack. This letter I have received. You must obtain good intelligence and employ proper *hircaus* and so soon as Mons. Busie is arrived in your limits, receive him in the politest manner so that he may be well pleased and satisfied with you. The moment Monsr. Busie arrives, present him the enclosed *perannah*. Enquire diligently and inform me whether he has passed the Chilka. I have wrote to Didarally and Ramagee Pundit that when Monsr. Busie or his army arrives they do not impede them.

No 5. Supposed to be wrote the latter end of April 1757.
Surajah Dowla to Monsr. Laws.

I send you 10,000 rupees for your expences. Remain quiet at Rajahmaul. When Monsr. Busie Bahdre etc., comes on this side Cuttack I will then send for you.

No 6. Supposed to be wrote the latter end of April 1757.
Surajah Dowla to Abdoulla.

I have sent Monsr. Law 10,000 rupees. Do you countenance and assist him at Rajahmaul and when I write for him to come here do you accompany Monsieur Law. Write the purport of what I now inform you of to Mahmud Nazam.

No. 7. Mons. Law to Mons. Bugros, Chief of Sydadabad.*

Je viens de recevoir une lettre du Nabob, par laquelle il m'ordonne de retourner à Mouxadavad. Il veut dit-il se joindre à nous pour tomber sur les anglais. J'ai aussi une letter due Sr. Changeau qui me donne d' assez bonnes nouvelles. Je suis surpri que vous ne m' avez rien, car je ne puis croire que vous soyez tout à fait ignorant de ce qui se passe. J'envoye Monsr. de Sinfrays au Nabob avec lequel il est chargé d' entrer en negotiation: il a ordre de rester à notre loge. Comme il est votre ancien, vous aurez la bonté de le reconnaitre pour Chef et de lui obeir en cette qualité. Peut-etre irai je bientôt vous trouver

J'ai l'honneur d'etre avec une parfaite consideration Monsieur

Votre tres humble & tres obeissant serviteur

Law

du Camp devant Champagnore, le 4^{me} Mai 1757

[Duplicate]

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LETTER DATED 20 AUGUST 1757

Shipping news—Particulars of investments—Arrangements for the survey of newly acquired territories—Execution of a fresh treaty with Mir Jafar—Appointment of a committee to report on coinage—Re-establishment of factory at Patna—Arrangements for the fortification of Calcutta—Appointment of Watts as Chief of Kasimbazar factory—Particulars of bills of exchange—Death of Admiral Watson.

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England.

May it please Your Honours,

1. We addressed you last by His Majesty's sloop the *King Fisher*; a duplicate of that letter is enclosed. This vessel being dispatched to give

*Translation of a letter (in French), dated Camp before Champagnore [sic] the 4th May, 1757, from M. Law to M. Bugros, Chief of Sydadabad.

No. 7. M. Law to M. Bugros, Chief of Sydadabad.

I have just received a letter from the Nabob in which he commands me to return to Mouxadab [adj]. He wishes, he says, to join forces with us in order to fall upon the English: I have also received a letter from Sr. Changeal (?) who sends me fairly good news. I am surprised that you have [told] me nothing for I cannot believe that you are wholly ignorant of what is going on. I am sending M. de Sinfray to the Nabob with whom he is directed to enter into negotiations: he has orders to remain in our bungalow.* As he is your Governor you will have the goodness to recognise him as your Chief and to obey him in this quality; perhaps I shall soon come to visit you.

I have the honour to be
with great esteem

Sir

Your most humble
and most obedient servant.
Law.

Camp before Champagnore
the 4th of May 1757.

* (?) Factory.

Your Honours an account of the revolutions effected by the assistance of our troops in the Government of these provinces, we beg leave to congratulate you on an event so glorious for the nation, and so beneficial to the Company. By this opportunity we shall give you a summary account of what has occurred under our management since the close of our letter per *King Fisher*.

2. We informed Your Honours of our having sent the *Marlborough* to Fort St. George for the woollen goods, copper etc., detained there out of the consignments for this place. She returned the beginning of last month with such part of those consignments as remained unsold or not used and we have ordered the captain to get her in readiness to take in the Hon^{ble} Company's goods for Europe and purpose to lade on her about 4,000 bags of saltpetre, her charterparty tonnage of redwood, and about 700 bales, with which cargo we shall return that ship to Fort St. George to be filled up and finally dispatched for Europe from hence.

3. Admiral Pocock having recommended Mr. Peter Mac Leshlan for the command of this vessel, we have given him charge of her being well satisfied of his capacity as a seaman and that he will do his utmost to carry the important intelligence to Your Honours. We have permitted him to put on board a small adventure agreeable to the enclosed manifest.

4. The *Mermaid* sloop is under dispatch for Madrass (all communication by land being cutt off), on which vessel we shall send 8 or 900 bags of saltpetre for the use of that settlement.

5. We shall endeavour to send the President and Council of Bombay the quantity of petre they have wrote for, by such conveyances as may be destined for that side of India. We wrote to Admiral Watson to put the *Protector* under our orders that we might lade some part of the petre designed for Bombay on that ship. But the squadron being in want of a storeship, he could not acquiesce with our request.

6. Upon the arrival of the *Marlbro'* we fixed the sale of Your Honours' woollen goods, copper, lead etc., Madeira, for the 18th of this month and have given the usual notice of the day of sale both here and at Muxadavad. By the *Marlbro'* we shall inform Your Honours of the sale thereof.

7. Several purchasers of broad cloth, lead etc., before the loss of the settlement having paid into the treasury the amount of their purchases without having taken them out of the factory, petitioned us, after our establishment, to be allowed a salvage of what was found of the sortments they had purchased. This being esteemed reasonable we consented to it. A few days since Mr. Edvard Halden Cruttenden petitioned the Board by letter to be paid the balance of his purchase of broad cloth as he apprehended those goods being lost in the factory were looked upon by the Nabob as the Company's property, in consideration of which he had given a large sum of money. This being debated in Council, we were of opinion the goods in the factory which had been paid for were at the risque of the purchaser though not taken away, and therefore we refused to comply with the request made in the above mentioned letter as we could not esteem the Company responsible for such goods.

8. The President and Council of Fort St. George, having sent us one hundred tons of copper by the *Protector*, it turned out Mds 18-33-4 short in weight upon its delivery here, the amount of which deficiency was demanded of Captain England. In consequence of this demand he addressed the Board and assured us there was no other copper on board than the Company's, and as he had delivered right in tale, he imagined the deficiency must be owing to some mistake at Madrass. Upon this assurance the Board have waved the demand upon Captain England supposing the difference to be owing to the method of weighing off goods at Madrass where they weighed by large draughts of a candy and in Bengal by a draught of five maunds.

9. Under this head we beg leave to remark that your servants at Fort St. George have invoiced the copper and wine sent us by *Protector* and *Marlbro'* at the price those articles sold for at their settlement instead of the price they were invoiced at from Europe and Madeira, by which means the profits which should appear in our books will be carried to the credit of their Presidency. We have made this remark to Mr. Pigot and his Council, and as the method they have taken is irregular and improper, we have informed them we should give account current London credit for the whole of the consignments sent us last year and their Presidency for the part they have detained.

10. By the establishment of Patna factory we have hopes of selling part of the Company's imports at a greater advantage than of late years they have sold for in Calcutta but this will depend nevertheless on the tranquillity of the upper parts of the Empire where those commodities are chiefly carried and consumed.

11. Hitherto we have not been able to make any great progress in the investment of this season. The delay made by the late Nabob in performing his treaty and returning our goods seized by his orders, the apprehensions we were under of a fresh rupture with, and the want of a sufficiency of cash to supply the *aurungs* with any large sums of money, were all of them so many impediments to our commencing the provision of our investments. The coarse sortments made near Calcutta the Export Warehouse Keeper was ordered to purchase early in April, and small sums of money advanced for that purpose. Since the change of Government *gomastahs* have been sent to the several *aurungs* with money who are directed to provide the cloth of their respective *aurungs* on the most reasonable terms they can procure them taking particular care not to debase their quality.

12. Junior servants are also gone to all our subordinates with lists of investments and directions to provide, if possible, the full of their orders.

13. The agents for disposing the effects taken at Chandernagore have offered us a considerable parcel of cloth proper for Your Honours use. Part of those goods have been sorted and the price adjusted. We have likewise made them offers for the remainder, and hope very shortly to settle the whole.

14. That we might not be disappointed of a large investment this season by trusting entirely to the purchases of our *gomastahs*, we have resolved to receive in our *cottah* any goods offered us for ready money if equal in quality to what our *gomastahs* provide.

15. As we were prevented by our unhappy situation last year from sending Your Honours the usual quantities of goods annually forwarded from hence, as we flatter ourselves the loss of Chandernagore will have a good effect in the Company's sales, we think it for the interest of our employers not to confine ourselves too closely to the orders contained in the list of investments per *Walpole* in respect to the goods to be sent home, as it was not possible for Your Honours then to foresee the above mentioned circumstances. We hope our conduct therefore will not be disapproved of, should we exceed your orders, as nothing induces us to that measure but the hopes of its proving very beneficial to our honorable masters.

16. A parcel of the Company's silk wound off before the seizure of Cossimbuzar by Surajed Dowlah having been purchased by some Guggerat merchants, it was offered us again at the same price they bought it. As the silk was extremely good we gave Messrs Watts and Manningham orders to buy it up which they have done accordingly, and we hope to send it home per *Marlborough*.

17. We wrote likewise to those gentlemen to endeavor to make contracts with the merchants at Cossim[buzar] for the quantities of raw silk, silk piece goods, and *gurrahs* ordered in the list of investment per *Walpole*, to which they have replied that they have employed a *gomastah* to procure the piece goods and *gurrahs* of 72 *cavid*. But there is no prospect of getting any more raw silk this season fit for the Company's use, for which reason they recommend our providing the Radnagur silk by a *gomastah*, which they imagine in Europe, as it is a strong and even silk [*sic*]. To this we have replied that we shall endeavour to purchase some of that sortment of silk by way of trial. But as it has never been sent home before nor is wrote for by the Company, we think it imprudent to send any large quantity to Europe.

18. Soon after the taking of Chandernagore we applied to the Directors and Company of Hughley to contract with us for 60,000 maunds of saltpetre to which we could get no definitive answer, and Omychund having since offered to deliver 58,000 mds. of that article in time for the dispatch of this years' shipping, we have agreed to take it of him at six Arcot rupees per factory maund, 20,000 mds. to be delivered in September, 15,000 in November and the remainder in February. We have the satisfaction likewise to hear from Mr. Pearkes at Patna that he is likely to make a contract for 40,000 maunds of petre at current rupees 5 annas 6 per factory maund to be delivered in Calcutta free of all risque and charges, which contract we have empowered him to make as we esteem it extremely reasonable. When the other servants set out for Patna we shall transmit a list of investment for that factory and direct them to procure the sortments of goods wrote for this season by Your Honours.

19. The Select Committee, whose province it is, will inform Your Honours of the particulars of the revolutions in the Government of these provinces, by what means effected, and the share we had in those transactions. By the enclosed translate of the treaty made with Jaffier Ali Khan, you will observe the advantage redounding to the Company by the change. We have the further pleasure to inform you that the Subah acquits himself of his engagement to our entire satisfaction, that his *sunnud* is extremely full

and greater immunities allowed the Company in it than the *phirmaund* specifics, and that the privilege of our mint is much more extensive than the *perwannah* granted in for that purpose by Surajah Dowlah.

20. The *coungoe's* man being arrived to make a survey of the districts, pergunnah, villages, towns etc., to be granted us by the Nabob, we have ordered Captain Robert Barker to attend him in his survey and make a rough plan of the course of the lake, its depths etc., that we may be able to ascertain and determine the bounderies of the territory to be granted us, from which survey and plan when compleated and perfected, we flatter ourselves many advantages will arise to the trade of this settlement.

21. As a fresh treaty with the present Subah is drawing up to be reciprocally executed by him and us, the Select Committee requested this Board would consider any amendments or alterations in the articles of the former treaty for the advantage of the Company. In consequence of this request, we have recommended to those gentlemen at Muxadavad to have the treaty signed by the Nabob's son, as well as himself, and that it specify its binding to his successors and heirs. We have likewise, desired them to get the 10th article relating to the assistance of our troops explained, as the word made use of in the first treaty (i.e. *coracky*) [*khuraky*] implies no more than diet money.

22. The President remembering something of a *machulka* exacted from Mr. Slackhouse, when Chief of Cossimbuzar, not to trade for salt or goods and grain not designed for exportation, and of a prohibition of the government forbidding our winding off or purchasing the head setters only of raw silk, we have desired the gentlemen at Muxadavad to have the above mentioned *matchulka* and prohibition made null and void, as we are not restrained in those particulars by the *phirmaund*.

23. Upon the arrival of people from Muxadavad for coining our money, we appointed the President, Mr. Frankland and Mr. Boddam a committee to make an assay of the coinage of the different species of bullion, and report to the Board how an hundred ounces of those stamped at Muxadavad and *siccas* of equal weight and fineness of those stamped at Muxadavad and what the charges will be of coinage etc., that we might establish our mint upon a solid footing. Hitherto that committee has made no report, but some rupees have been stamped and sent up to Muxadavad for trial where they have been approved of. We purpose to establish our mint upon the same footing with that of Madrass.

24. Mr. Watts, having procured a *perwannah* for our resettling at Patna without any extra expences to the *Durbar* officers, we thought it the most favorable juncture we could have for establishing that factory, and by that means securing a provision of petre which at this time we judged of the utmost importance. Accordingly Messrs Pearkes, Batson and Billers were ordered to proceed to transmit us advice of the state of the markets there in order to [*sic*] broad cloth, copper, lead and iron and to inform us if saltpetre was procurable and upon what terms. Mr. Pearkes set out immediately and is now at Patna. The other gentlemen waited till the disturbances then in agitation were settled, and will proceed to Patna in a few days.

25. As the large sums of money we shall receive from the Nabob with

what will be paid in the treasury for bills of exchange will be more than sufficient for our occasions for this year, we think it would be imprudent to encrease Your Honours risque at this settlement which is as yet in no posture to resist an European force. We have therefore wrote to the other Presidencies to send no money or bullion to this place till they hear further from us.

26. Having purchased a parcel of redwood of the captors of Chander-nagore, we have desired the President and Council of Fort St. George to send us none of that article if they are necessitated to pay freight for having it brought hither.

27. We must not omit that we have desired the gentlemen at Muxadavad to get the annual *piscash* made payable for the future at Muxadavad instead of Hughley and to pay the *piscash* for the proceeding year that no trouble may be given in future on that pretence.

28. The President laid before us in the month of March a letter from him to the Hon'ble the Secret Committee in England, advising of Captain Broyere's being ordered to repair to this settlement and lay a plan for erecting fortifications as might secure it from the attempts of an European enemy, and directing a standing committee to be formed for procuring materials on the cheapest terms and carrying on the works with economy. In consequence of these directions the President, Mr. Frankland and Mr. Mackett, were appointed to be a committee for the above mentioned purpose, of which committee Mr. Broyere when present was to be a member.

29. Immediately after the receipt of these advices we advertised that we were willing to contract for all kinds of materials for building. The committee above mentioned, likewise, wrote to Dacca and Ballasore for the prices of timbers, planks, chunam *etc.*, at those places. Their answers were laid before the Board, but the prices being esteemed too high the committee were desired to look out for those articles nearer to Calcutta and to procure them on cheaper terms.

30. Captain Broyere arrived in the *Marlbro'* the beginning of last month, and has delivered us a letter purposing to erect a citadel to the southward of the Old Dock, as soon as possible, for the defence of the river and the Company's effects, and when that is compleated and executed, to fortify the white tower with a glacis, wells, ditch *etc.* That Your Honours may better judge of this place we transmit you a copy of his letter enclosed. It has been twice read and considered in Council and Captain Broyere has been desired to survey the ground and deliver a plan of the citadel he intends building as soon as possible which he has promised. In the meantime, we have ordered all the houses to the southward of the Old Dock to be surveyed and valued by six appraisers—three on behalf of the Company and three to be chosen by the proprietor of every house surveyed, an umpire to be elected to determine the valuation if they can't agree among themselves. By the foregoing method we flatter ourselves all cause of complaint will be obviated.

31. Having mentioned that by the foregoing method we hope all cause of complaint will be obviated, it will not be improper to explain that part of our letter by informing Your Honours that Mr. Edward Halden Cruttenden,

soon after his return from the Coast, addressed us on the subject of his houses levelled after the retaking of Calcutta for an esplanade to the factory, complaining of the low valuation set on his dwelling house, and that of the late Edward Eyre Esqr. deceased, as likewise of the irregularity of doing, the proprietors having never been informed of the resolution of Council nor desired to choose persons on their own behalf to be present at the appraisement which is customary in such like cases. To this we replied by our Secretary that those houses had been surveyed and estimated by four impartial gentlemen, at which valuation we were willing to pay Mr. Cruttenden for his houses. This reply not being satisfactory, he sent in another letter to the Board repeating his complaints of the irregularity of the appraisement and further setting forth that his own dwelling house had been burnt by the party of soldiers and volunteers, who were posted there, on their being withdrawn to prevent the enemy from getting possession of and annoying the fort from the top terrasses. This being a known fact, we esteemed it but reasonable to make him an allowance for it and having agreed to pay him 12,000 rupees for the house but cannot encrease the valuation of the other, as the method taken by the gentlemen appointed to value the houses then designed to be levelled appears to us very proper and satisfactory, which is entered at large on the face of our consultation of the 4th instant.

32. The gentlemen of Muxadavad have informed us in their letters that the Nabob is very pressing with them to fortify Cossimbuzar or if the spot which our factory now stands upon is inconvenient, he will give them any other spot of ground they choose upon the island. They have considered the utility of having a strong fortification well garrisoned so near the capital and have desired Captain Broyere may be sent up to pitch upon a proper situation for fortifying and plan out a strong fort. The Nabob has likewise requested of them to build a fort at Rajamall at his charge. We made this known to Capt. Broyere and desired him to set out as soon as he conveniently could for Cossimbuzar.

33. We purpose to return the *Hunter* schooner in a few days to the Negrais and request the Chief there to provide a quantity of teak timbers of the dimensions specified in Capt. Broyere's inventory.

34. His Majesty's ship the *Kent* being condemned and reported unfit to proceed to sea, we have applied to Admiral Watson for the use of the guns with their shot for our new works till we can be properly supplied by Your Honours or can purchase the said guns and shot of the Board of Ordnance, which he has acquiesced with, and we beg leave to recommend it to Your Honours to endeavor to purchase of the Board of Ordnance the said guns and shot for the fortifications to be erected in Bengall.

35. Upon the conclusion of the late disturbances and the new Government established, we purposed to appoint Chiefs to all our subordinates and settle them upon some established footing. Accordingly we wrote to Messrs Watts and Manningham to know if either of them chose to be appointed Chief of Cossimbuzar, Patna or Dacca. Mr. Watts has chosen to remain at Cossimbuzar and the Council have appointed with him Messrs Hastings, Sykes and Hugh Watts. We then debated for appointing Chiefs to Dacca and Patna, but the weight of business in Calcutta at this juncture making it necessary to have as many members of the Board upon the spot as possible,

we have deffered establishing any Chiefs at those two places for the present, and have directed Mr. Pearkes to repair to his seat at the Board upon the arrival of Messrs Batson and Billers.

36. On the 31st of March, Major Killpatrick advised us of his being under a necessity of returning to Europe for his health. We are therefore to request Your Honours will appoint a person to succeed him as Major of this settlement.

37. Mr. Edward Leycester one of your covenanted servants of the last season demised the 15th of March, and we hear by private letters from Cossim [Cossimbuzar] that the Reverend Mr. Cobbe departed this life on the 28th ultimo, by whose death the Chaplain's places are vacant. We must therefore desire Your Honours will fill up those vacancies by the first opportunity.

38. There being a great scarcity of covenanted servants in Calcutta, we have entertained Mr. Hewitt as a monthly writer with the same allowances as your own servants, and beg leave to recommend him to be covenanted upon this establishment. He is appointed in the Secretary's office.

39. The large sums of money laying in our treasury being greatly more than we shall want for our investments and charges, we have advertised that no interest will be paid on Company's bonds after the first day of October next, and that all bonds tendered for payment will be immediately discharged. By this method we hope to free Your Honours of the heavy debt owing by the Company at this Presidency.

40. The same motive made us take into consideration whether we should grant bills of exchange on Your Honours by the vessell and the *Marlbro'* for all sums paid for that purpose. It was the opinion of the Board (in which the gentlemen at Muxadavad concur) that no bills by the foregoing vessels should be granted, but for the produce of coral, amber, beads etc., and monies paid in account the estates of deceased persons, and small sums remitted home for necessaries. We were induced to this resolution from a consideration of the small investments sent home last year, and the large sums that would be remitted on the Company if not restrained, but we apprehend we shall be under great difficulty to avoid giving bills of large sums of money by the December shipping. If we should be necessitated to grant such bills, we purpose to make them payable on the following terms: That the bills though drawn as usual at ninety days after sight shall not be payable before one twelve month from the acceptance of the bill; the proprietors of the bills to be allowed the interest paid by the Company in England for the time they are kept out of their money after the ninety days are expired.

41. Mr. George Williamson and others who had money in the Company's hands at interest and have lost their bonds having applied to us either to renew their interest notes or grant them certificates signifying they were not discharged at the capture, we took their case into consideration; and esteeming it a great hardship upon those who have lost their bonds by the capture of the settlement we have agreed to grant certificates to such persons whose bonds to the best of our knowledge were not discharged between of [*sic*] the ships of last season for Europe and the loss of this place, referring it to Your Honours to right the sufferers by ordering the said bonds to be received or paid, as you will be able to trace out by the books and treasury accounts sent home, whether these bonds have been discharged or not.

42. The journals of this Présidency balanced and closed to the 30th of April 1755 having [sic] found among the ruins of the factory, we have ordered the head standing on balance at that time to be brought forward on the books now opened, that they may be adjusted and settled in future as we got a further knowledge of the Company's credit.

43. We are now to advise Your Honors of the several sums for which we have granted bills of exchange per this vessel @ at 2s-3d. each current rupee, the amount being first accounted for in our treasury.

One sett for rupees four thousand seven hundred fifty two (4752) current received of Mr. Wm. Nixon on account the estate of H. Goddard payable to Mr. John Goddard and Commelin Pigou is £sterling 534-12.

One sett for rupees one thousand five hundred fifty six twelve annaes three pice (1556-12-3) current received of Charles Manningham & William Frankland Esqrs. payable to Adam Sawson Esqr. is £str. 175-2-8.

One sett for rupees three hundred twenty twelve annaes three pice (320-12-3) current received of Charles Manningham & Wm. Frankland Esqres. payable to Captain John Sampson is £str. 36-1-8.

One sett for rupees three hundred twenty twelve annaes three pice (320-12-3) current received of Charles Manningham & William Frankland Esqres. payable to Thomas Saunders Esqr. is £str. 36-1-8.

One sett for rupees one thousand four hundred ninety five one annae three pice (1495-1-3) current received of Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqres. on account of Miss Eliza Fytche payable to Thomas Fytche Esqr. is £str. 168-3-11.

One sett for rupees one thousand and eight eleven annaes and six pice (1008-11-6) current received of Mr. Thomas Rait payable to Captain Thomas Winter is £str. 113-9-7.

One sett for rupees three thousand eighty four six annaes nine pice (3084-6-9) current received of Mr. Hugh Baillic payable to Mr. William Smith Kinge is £str. 347.

One sett for rupees four thousand four hundred forty four and seven annaes (4444-7-0) current received of Mrs. Frances Watts payable to Mr. Wm. Watts is £str. 500.

One sett for rupees twenty nine thousand ninety seven and eleven annaes (29097-11-0) current received of Roger Drake Junior Esqr. being the produce of 2 chests of coral marked RB No. 9 and 10 imported per *Norfolk* payable to Messrs Richard and William Barwell is £str. 3273-9-9.

One sett for rupees eight hundred eighty eight fourteen annas six pice (888-14-6) current received of Mrs. Sarah Mapletoft payable to Humphry Bellamy Esqr. is £str. 100.

One sett for rupees eight thousand eight hundred eighty eight fourteen annaes three pice (8888-14-3) current received of Charles Manningham Esqr. payable to Thos. & Henry Manningham Esqr. is £str. 1000.

One sett for rupees one thousand sixty ten annaes nine pice (1060-10-9) current received of Richard Becher Esq. accot. the estate of John Hall deceased payable to Messrs Nettleton and Raikis is £120.

One sett for rupees eight hundred ninety three two annaes six pice (893-2-6) current received of Mr. Culling Smith payable to Stephen Law Esqr. is Estr. 100-9-7.

One sett for rupees six hundred twenty eight twelve annaes nine pice (628-12-9) current received of Mr. Culling Smith payable to Messrs Moore and White Estr. 70-14-9.

One sett for rupees four thousand four hundred forty four four annaes three pice (4444-4-3) current received of Messrs Amyatt and Fullerton being the produce of one chest of coral marked H.B. No I imported per *Delawar* payable to William Barwell Esqr. Estr. 1497-8-2.

One sett for rupees two thousand two hundred forty eight fourteen annaes three pice (2248-14-3) current received of Mr. William Powney payable to Mr. Joseph Fowke Estr. 253.

One sett for rupees three thousand five hundred fifty five eight annaes nine pice (3555-8-9) current received of Wm. Percival Esqr. payable to Mr. James Adams and the Revd. Mr. George Perceval is Estr. 400.

One sett for rupees seven hundred eleven one annae nine pice (711-1-9) current received of Mr. Wm. Brightwell Sumner payable to Mr. Frasr. Howell is Estr. 80.

One sett for rupees one thousand nine hundred fifty five and nine annaes (1955-9-0) current received of Mr. Samuel Waller payable to William Waller Esqr. or order Estr. 220.

One sett for rupees twenty six thousand six hundred sixty six ten annaes six pice (26666-10-6) current received of Wm. Frankland Esqr. payable to Frederick and Thomas Frankland Esqres. is Estr. 3000.

One sett for rupees seventeen thousand seven hundred seventy seven twelve annaes six pice (17777-12-6) current received of Messieurs Manningham, Frankland and Thomas Holmes payable to Frederick Frankland Esqrs. and Sr. William Russel is Estr. 20000.

One sett for rupees thirteen thousand three hundred thirty three five annas three pice (13333-5-3) current received of Roger Drake Junr. Esqr. payable to Roger Drake Esqr. is Estr. 1500.

One sett for rupees eight hundred eighty eight fourteen annaes three pice (888-14-3) current received of Mr. Charles Douglas payable to Alexander Wedderburn Esqr. Estr. 100.

44. The whole amount of bills of exchange per this vessel is current rupees 143339-9a-3p or £sterling 16125-13s-9d.

45. It is with the greatest concern we inform Your Honours of the death of Admiral Charles Watson, who departed this life of a violent fever on the 16th instant.

We are with the greatest respect,
May it please Your Honours,
Your faithful and obedient servants,

Roger Drake Junr. / Richd. Becher / W. Frankland / W. Mackett / P.
Amyatt / Thos. Boddam.

Fort William, August 20th, 1757.

LETTER DATED 20 AUGUST 1757

Law takes shelter with Nawab of Oudh—With his help may molest Mir Jafar—Indent for military stores.

TO the Hon'ble the Secret Committee for Affairs of the Honorable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Enclosed we transmit you a copy of our letter under date the 14th July which has been forwarded in triplicates *via* Bombay, and two copies will be forwarded *via* Fort St. George. The importance of it induced us to dispatch this vessel (the *Diligent* schooner) with another copy, wherefore we flatter ourselves some one or other of these packets will not fail of reaching England.

2. Since the close of that letter nothing very material has occurred. The country enjoys at present a profound tranquillity and the new Subah seems firmly established in his Government, being a humane prince and much esteemed by his subjects. Some disturbances are, however, expected as soon as the rains are over, Mr. Law and his party having escaped to the Nabob of Oude, who has threatened to invade these dominions, and revenge Scraja Dowla's ruin. Should he attempt to molest the present Subah, it will be necessary for our troops once more to take the field as we are bound both by our treaty and our own interest to support him in the Government. These reasons have determined us to detain the detachments sent us from Bombay and Fort St. George, till peace and quiet is sufficiently settled in these provinces.

3. In the packet to the Honourable the Court of Directors Captain Brohier's indent for military stores is transmitted. We request the favour that indent may be compared with as near as possible and that positive orders may be sent to the President and Council of Fort St. George to detain no part of those stores as the consequences of their doing it may be fatal to the Company's affairs, should the French attempt to dispossess us of this settlement.

4. Part of the money due account the moiety to be immediately paid is arrived in Calcutta and the remainder we are informed is weighing off.

5. In the packet to the Honorable the Court of Directors translate of the general *sunnud* and the *perwannah* for the mint are forwarded. You will observe by the last the impression is to be Calcutta only, without the addition of Allenagore.

We are with the greatest respect,

Hon'ble Sirs,

Your most faithful humble servants,

Roger Drake Junr. / Robert Clive / Richd. Becher.

Fort William, 20th August 1757.

LETTER DATED 22 AUGUST 1757

Clive's opinion that British prestige and acquisitions in Bengal depend on military strength—His concern about Madras affairs—Hopes Mughal Emperor will confirm Mir Jafar as Nawab and that Marathas are satisfied with the revolution in Bengal.

TO the Hon'ble Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable,

1. I had the pleasure to address you last from Charnagore, but the packet by the delatoriness of the boatmen did not arrive in time to be received on board the vessel under dispatch for England. I, therefore, take the first opportunity of sending it to Your Honors by this conveyance.

2. Those who build most upon military successes could never have conceived the present expedition would have ended so gloriously for the Company. Give me leave to congratulate Your Honours on this fortunate event, an event which puts it in your power to be as great as you please in the kingdom of Bengal. The sinews of war are in your own possession, and there wants nothing but supplies of men and military stores to keep up your influence and preserve all your privileges and acquisitions.

3. Your Committee will inform Your Honours of the necessity of the late revolution and in what manner it was conducted. I enclose Your Honors a general return of the forces under my command, a journal of our military proceedings and translate of the treaty with Meir Jaffair etc.

4. Your affairs are upon the Coast much in the same situation, as when I left it. Both parties are too equal to act offensively and no acquisition has been made on either side. The French have made an unsuccessful attempt upon Trichenopoly, and we upon Madura and Nellour.

5. Your settlements to the northward of Madras were not in a condition to withstand the superior force of your enemies in those parts, but the men were imprudently lost who might have been withdrawn in time.

6. Your Honors may be persuaded that next to this province the Carnatic takes up my whole attention. It gives me much concern the gentlemen upon the Coast should be displeased at my not returning a part of the forces. Had I done so nothing could have been effected here. Your Honours who bestow an impartial attention upon all the Company's settlements will I hope approve of my conduct.

7. The time draws near when we may expect to hear of the new Subah Jaffair Ally Cawn's confirmation from Dalhy, and that the Marottoes are satisfied with the late change. I shall then proceed to the Carnatic with a force which, I hope, will give our arms the superiority in those parts. I make no doubt of being there soon after the breaking up of the monsoon, which will be as

early as the two contending parties can take the field, and upon my arrival there I shall with pleasure resign the sword to my superiors.

8. May the like success attend your arms in every part of India, and may I soon have an opportunity of convincing Your Honors in person with how much zeal, attachment and respect,

I am,

Honorable,

Your most obliged humble servant,
Robert Clive.

Calcutta, 22nd August 1757.

LETTER DATED 22 AUGUST 1757

Clive abolishes batta—Suspects trouble from Patna and suggests remedy—Narrates Caillaud's reverses in Madras—Laments death of Watson.

TO the Hon'ble Secret Committee for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Since I had the honor to address you last from Muxadavad, your service required my coming to this place to settle some military affairs. I propose returning in a very few days in order to hasten the conclusion of the articles of agreement with the Nabob now nearly accomplished.

2. To save unnecessary expences, I have ordered all *batta* or extraordinary allowances to be struck off, and the military etc., return to garrison. The unhealthiness of Calcutta at this season of the year has induced me to leave most of your force above. The lives of men are very precious at this critical juncture, and I am persuaded your affairs will receive benefit from this step on many other accounts.

3. The daily intelligence I receive from Patna makes it absolutely necessary the Nabob's whole force should march that way after the rains. Indeed all his and your acquisitions will be put to risque without it. I have not the least doubt but everything will be settled on the most solid and lasting footing by the month of December. I shall then be enabled to bestow my whole attention upon your affairs on the Coast of Choriromandel.

4. By the last advices from hence the two armies were nearly equal in force. Ours had made several motions to draw the enemy to an engagement, but to no manner of purpose. The French persisted in keeping their entrenchments at Vandiwash. Ours are encamped at Conjiveram. Since the unsuccessful attempt of the French upon Trichinopoly and their return north, Captn. Caillaud undertook a second expedition against Madura, made a breach and in attempting to storm it was repulsed with the loss of some men killed and wounded. The Committee's last letters, copy of which I now inclose you,

mentions this affairs in general terms only. But I have received the above mentioned particular from other hands.

5. Mr. Watson is no more. Every one here received the melancholy news of his death with much concern. His generosity, disinterestedness and zeal for the service must for ever endear his memory to the Company. Unhappy Fate! After having escaped all the rigours of war, to be thus untimely cut off in the midst of his success, crowned with glory and reputation, this is but one of the many lessons given us of the instability of humane nature. Concern for this good man's death hastens me to a conclusion, and I have only to assure you I am with the greatest respect,

Honorable Sir,
Your most obliged humble servant,
Robert Clive.

Calcutta, 22nd August 1757.

27

LETTER DATED 12 SEPTEMBER 1757

Despatch of saltpetre to Madras and stores to St. Helena—President Drake's intention to return to England in December, 1758—Particulars of bills of exchange.

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours,

1. By the *Diligent* schooner we gave you a detail of your affairs under our management. We beg leave to refer ourselves to a duplicate of that letter (enclosed) for the particulars.
2. The *Marlbro'* is now under dispatch for Madras with four thousand (4000) bags of petre consigned to the President and Council of that place, the other goods laden we have consigned Your Honours as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed amounting to rupees four hundred and eighteen thousand five hundred (418,500).
3. A proportion of stores for St. Helena is likewise laden on this vessel amounting to rupees nine hundred and sixty seven, four annas, nine pice, invoice and bill of lading for which we have forwarded to the Governor and Council there.
4. In this packet we transmit you the several papers belonging to the *Marlbro'* with Captain MacLeod's letters, [and] report of the Madcira received by her etc. We likewise send an account sale of the copper, lead and woollen goods put up the eighteenth of August by which you will observe the two first articles sold extremely well. We shall make another tryal of our woollen goods at the setting in of the cold weather.

5. As we think it will not be possible for the French to be re-settled in these provinces till a peace is concluded betwixt the two Crowns, we have hopes of being able to dispose of a much larger quantity of woollen goods than we have indented for these few years past. By the December shipping we shall be better enabled to form our 'indents which we cannot send home by this ship.

6. As yet we have not heard of the arrival of any of this year's shipping on the Coast.

7. Our President, conformable to Your Honours orders, begs leave to advise that probably he shall return to England in December 1758, as through his long residence in India and the late calamities and distress he has undergone, he finds his constitution impaired. Nevertheless he assures Your Honours, he shall not quit your service if his presence here for a longer time is material to his employers' interest, and his health will permit him to remain while it is your pleasure to hold him in his station.

8. The seamen of the *Marlbro'* having been employed in the camp near Dum Dumma, and having behaved extremely well, we have thought it proper to give them a bounty of fifty (50) rupees a man as an encouragement for their good behaviour. In this place we beg leave to mention that the commander and officers in general of your ships exerted their utmost in the defence of the settlement and assisting the inhabitants when we were in distress. We refer it therefore to Your Honors to make them such a gratification as you think fit.

9. We have granted the following bills of exchange by this ship to the underwritten persons at two shillings and three pence (2s 3d) each current rupee, their respective amounts being first duly accounted for in the treasury.

One sett for rupees six thousand seven hundred and eighty five (6,785) current received of Roger Drake Junr. Esqr. payable to Roger Drake and Beeston Long Esqrs. is £sterling 763-6-3

One sett for rupees twenty six thousand (26,000) current received of Roger Drake Junr. Esqr. accot. a legacy bequeathed Millecent Drake, daughter of Roger Drake Junr., by John Coles deceased payable to Roger Drake and Beeston Long Esqrs. is £str. 2,925.

One sett for rupees twenty six thousand (26,000) current received of Roger Drake Junior Esqr. accot. a legacy bequeathed Martha Drake deceased by John Coles deceased now the property (in equal shares) of Roger, Richard and Nathaniel Drake, sons of Roger Drake Junior, payable to Roger Drake and Beeston Long Esqrs. is £str. 2,925.

One sett for rupees three thousand four hundred and forty (3440) current received of Roger Drake Junior Esqr. account Millecent Drake, daughter of Roger Drake Junior, payable to Roger Drake and Beeston Long Esqrs., is £str. 387.

One sett for rupees nine hundred and eighty (980) current received of Roger Drake Junior Esqr. account his son Richard Drake, payable to Roger Drake and Beeston Long Esqrs. is £str. 110-5-0.

One sett for rupees thirteen thousand eight hundred and eighty seven, one annae three pice (13,887-1-3) current received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland by order of Mr. Sol. Franco of Madrass payable to Messrs Moses and Raphael Franko (being in full returns for coral MFR No. 1 per *Rhodda* 1755 IFM No. 32 per *Lynn* 1750) is

£str. 1,562-5-11.

One sett for rupees forty six thousand six hundred and twenty two, ten annaes (46,622-10) received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland by order of Mr. Sol. Franco of Madrass being in full returns for coral FF No. 26 per *Bombay Castle* 1752 and No. 17 per *Triton* 1754 . . . No. 1 per *Griffin* 1749 No. 7 per *Kent* 1750 and No. 32 per *East Court* 1755 payable to Messrs Abraham and Jacob Franco is

£str. 5,245-0-11.

One sett for rupees two thousand five hundred and sixty four, fifteen annaes, nine pice (2,564-15-9) current received of Messieurs Manningham and Frankland being in full returns for one chest of coral . . . No. 1 per *Marlbro'* 1756, payable to Mr. Joseph Salvatore is

£str. 288-11-3.

One sett for rupees three thousand five hundred and ten thirteen annaes, three pice (3,510-13-3) current received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland being in part returns of one chest of coral per *Walpole* 1756 marked . . . No. 13 payable to Mr. Judah Supino is

£str. 394-19-4.

One sett for rupees seven thousand five hundred and sixty nine five annas (7569-5) current received of Messieurs Manningham and Frankland, in part return of one chest of coral per *Walpole* 1756, marked R.B. No. 18 payable to Messrs Richard and William Barwell is

£str. 851-11-0.

One sett for rupees twenty eight thousand five hundred and seventy five, seven annaes three pice (28,575-7-3) current received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland in full returns for two chests of coral per *Walpole* 1756 marked DMB No. 9 and 10 payable to Richard Barwell Esqr. is

£str. 3,214-14-9.

One sett for rupees two hundred and sixty six ten annaes nine pice (266-10-9) current received of Mrs. Sarah Chapman payable to Mr. John Chapman is

£str. 30-0-0.

One sett for rupees fifteen thousand seven hundred and ninety seven (15,797) current received of Roger Drake Junr. Esqr. on account William Barton, son of James Barton, left in trust with Roger Drake Junr. and Daniel D. Lascelles, payable to Daniel Lascelles Esqr. is

£str. 1,777-3-3.

One sett for rupees four thousand four hundred and forty four seven annaes three pice (4,444-7-3) current received of Mr. George Clive payable to William Belchior Esqr. and company is

£500-0-0.

One sett for rupees four thousand four hundred and forty four seven annaes, three pice (4,444-7-3) current received of William Watts Esqr. payable to Mr. William Watts is

£str. 500.

One sett for rupees seven thousand (7,000) current received of William Fullerton account the estate of Walter Johson deceased payable to Mr. William Ferguson is £str. 787-10-0.

One sett for rupees three thousand (3000) current received of William Fullerton payable to Messrs Goslin and Benet is £str. 337-10-0.

One sett for rupees four thousand four hundred and forty four seven annaes three pice (4,444-7-3) current received of Mr. James Williers Walsh payable to Mr. George Fitzgerald is £str. 500.

One sett for rupees four thousand four hundred and forty four seven annaes three pice (4444-7-3) current received of Peter Amyatt Esqr. payable to Wm. Barwell Esqr. and Wm. Jnyr. Burges is £str. 500.

The whole amount of bills granted on this vessel is rupees two hundred and nine thousand seven hundred and seventy six twelve annaes three pice (209776-12-3) or £str. 23,599-17-8.

10. By this ship we transmit Your Honors a state of Fort William, but we apprehend it is but an imperfect one. We shall endeavour to send one more correct by the December shipping and are with the greatest respect,

May it please Your Honours,

Your most faithful, obedient and humble servants,

Roger Drake Junr./Richd. Becher/W. Frankland/M. Collet/W. Mackett/
P. Amyatt/Thos. Boddam.

Fort William, 12th September 1757.

28

LETTER DATED 27 SEPTEMBER 1757

Arrival of French squadron at Pondicherry—Despatch of French personnel from Chandernagore to Pondicherry.

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United Compy. of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours,

1. Herewith we forward to the gentlemen at Fort St. George to be transmitted from thence to Europe by the first conveyance a packet designed to have been sent Your Honours by the *Marlbro'*, Captain Alexander McLeod, which ship was actually laden with four thousand (4000) bags of petre and near six hundred (600) bales, and her dispatches upon the point of being closed when the *Revenge*, Capt. William James, brought us intelligence of the arrival of a squadron of ten French ships at Pondicherry, which was confirmed a few days after by His Majesty's ship the *Triton*. As we have no certain account of their force or what number of troops they brought,

2. As we judged it highly imprudent to send the *Marlbro'* to Fort St. George, after receiving such news, we have altered her appointment, and shall lade her for Europe compleatly from hence to be dispatched early in the season.

3. About the middle of August we sent eight hundred (800) bags of petre to Fort St. George on the *Mermaid*, one of our pilot sloops which has been obliged to put back by stress of weather after having got into the latitude of 15° north. The advices she carried being of the utmost importance, we have freighted the *Syrian* sloop to carry them to the Coast and have given the owners a gratuity of two thousand (2000) rupees for so doing. The *Marlbro'* packet is likewise forwarded to the Coast on the *Watson* sloop, which we have taken up on that account for the same sum.

4. By these vessels we write to the Governor and Council of Fort St. George to acquaint them of our having altered the *Marlbro's* appointment and to request they will let us know how far they can assist us in the dispatch of any of the ships expected this season.

5. Upon receiving intelligence of the arrival of a French squadron upon the Coast we thought it absolutely necessary to send the Directore and Council, officers, military and civil, and inhabitants of the late colony of Chandernagore to Pondicherry to prevent their assisting in any shape their countrymen in case they proceed hither to make an attempt upon our settlement. The *Restitution* is freighted for that purpose. We have allowed the owner's forty thousand (40,000) Arcot rupees for carrying them, and have indemnified them in the amount of forty five thousand (45,000) current rupees, should the ship be taken by the French in her passage to Pondicherry, or detained by them after her arrival there. These were the only terms we could prevail on the owners to send the ship for, and as we think it of the utmost consequence to keep the French out of Bengall, and judged this to be one material step to prevent their getting a footing here, we hope what we have done will meet with your approbation.

We are with the greatest respect,

May it please Your Honours,

Your most faithful and most obedient, humble servants,

Roger Drake Junr. / James Killpatrick / Richd. Becher / M. Collet / P. Amyatt.

Fort William, 27th September 1757.

LETTER DATED 23 DECEMBER 1757

Heavy mortality among English soldiers in Bengal—Death of Major Killpatrick—Character of Mir Jafar—Rebellions in Purnea, Patna and Midnapore caused by his mismanagement—Differences with his Prime Minister—Murders Siraj-ud-daulah's brother—Submission of Rajaram—Clive's efforts to procure assignments of revenues from Mir Jafar against payment of stipu-

lated money—Law's activities in Oudh—Clive's request for a large force in Bengal.

TO the Hon'ble the Secret Committee for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable Sirs,

1. Notwithstanding the precautions which I acquainted you in my last of the 22nd August were taken for preserving the military in health by quartering the greatest part at Cossimbuzar and Chandernagore I am sorry to inform you that a terrible mortality has reigned among them, and that many of the survivors are so reduced by illness as to be still incapable of duty. We have likewise lost several officers and among the rest Major Killpatrick, who acquired much deserved reputation in his long course of service in India. The squadron has suffered no less than the land forces. Indeed the sickness has been general, not only with the English but the French and Dutch and even the natives. The enclosed return will give you the particulars of our loss as well as acquaint you with the small force I have at present in the field. Of the detachment of King's troops not above twenty privates were fit for duty when we marched. Therefore, at Mr. Pocock's pressing instance, I left the whole behind to be embarked on board the squadron. Of the Madrass detachment, there remained about 150 effective train included, so that the troops now with me are for the greatest part composed of foreign deserters and *topasses* entertained on the Bengal establishment. However, the present face of affairs seems fortunately to require but little service from our arms. Political negotiations are likely to be more necessary.

2. In laying open the state of this Government, I am concerned to mention that the present Nabob is a prince of little capacity and not at all blessed with the talent of gaining the love and confidence of his principal officers. His mismanagement threw the country into great confusion in the space of a few months and might have proved of fatal consequence to himself but for our known attachment to him. No less than three rebellions were on foot at the same time; one at Midnapore headed by Rajah Ram,¹ another in Purlinea under Oudul Sing,² and the third at Patna under Ramnarran, all which may be very well attributed to the Nabob's own imprudence. Rajah Ram's two brothers, after being invited to Muxadavad, were imprisoned, which was quite sufficient to deter him from surrendring himself as he intended. Meer Azisse³ was appointed to the government of Purlinea to the general satisfaction of the people, but soon laid aside for Coddum Hussan Cawn,⁴ a relation it's true of the Nabob, but a tyrannical rapacious fellow and odious to the last degree to the Purlhneans. As for Ramnarran, after he had made his submission and the Nabob had sworn to continue him in his Government, apparent measures were taken for his overthrow.

3. The Prime Minister, Roy Dulup Ram, who was one of the chief instruments of the Nabob's promotion, and had received in return solemn assurances of continuing his [him] *Duan*, was suspected to be engrossing the power in his hands, and rather to have encouraged the three rebellions than endeavoured to suppress them. It is very certain that Roy Dulup had a powerful party in the state, and more than probable, that he took measures to

strengthen it, according to the common policy of all *Duans*. However this might be, the Nabob's jealousy of him was carried to such a height that Surajah Dolaw's brother,⁵ a young lad, and almost an idiot, was suddenly cut off on a surmise of Roy Dulop's intending to make him Nabob, and having sent his own brother to Chandernagore to engage me in the design, which is altogether groundless. Roy Dulup, no sooner knew of this sudden execution and the motive for it, than he began immediately to fear for his own life, and open hostilities might possibly have ensued if we had not been a check to each party. The Nabob, who at this time was encamped in the neighbourhood of Muxadavad accompanied by a detachment of our troops, excuses himself from any knowledge of the transaction, and lays the whole blame on his son, who was left in the government of the city. But many circumstances induce us to believe otherwise. Roy Dulup, on a pretence of sickness, was still at Muxadavad, having a large body of his own troops with him as is usual in these governments. But it is not improbable the chief reason for his remaining behind was a view to his own safety. Affairs were in this situation when I arrived at Muxadavad. I would willingly have engaged Roy Dulup to accompany me to the Nabob that I might have effected a reconciliation between them, but his illness not admitting him to sett out immediately, I could only assure him of my protection, and engage his promise to follow me as soon as possible.

4. The 3rd instant our army came up with the Nabob's at Fethappoor, near Rajahmall, where we still continue encamped chiefly to wait the Minister's arrival.

5. I should have acquainted you that some days before I set out from Chandernagore, Rajah Ram, the Midnapore rebel, came and delivered himself up to me on promise of the Nabob's pardon and our protection. This first unlinked the chain of the three rebellions, the chiefs of which had held a correspondence and were connected together. Rajah Ram's submission may be deemed a very fortunate event in all respects, for his good sense, long experience in the affairs of this government, and the great influence he has in the country would have made him as dangerous an enemy to the Nabob as he is now an useful friend to us.

6. Upon our approach and some of the Nabob's troops having passed the river into the Purnea country, the rebels of that country quitted their intrenchments and dispersed, but some of their chiefs were overtaken and made prisoners. So that two of the rebellions are effectually quelled, and the third is in fair way of being peaceably accommodated with Ramnarran.

7. If it is in my power to bring about the thorough reconciliation which I intend between the Nabob and Roy Dulup, all domestick troubles may be fully put an end to in this country. As for any apprehensions of a foreign enemy they are not very strong at present. The Vizier⁶ with the assistance of the Marottoes drove Najib Cawn,⁷ the Aughwan *Buxie*, out of Delhi. But the latter, being reinforced by a large body of Patans who are the Aughwans that have settled for some time in Indostan, is again making head in the neighbourhood of Delhi, and will be joined by Soojah Dowla, the Nabob of Oud, so that all the powers from whom any danger might be expected are too much engaged among themselves to bend their thoughts.

this way for the present. The Nabob's confirmation is not yet procured at Delhi nor can I judge when it will. The difficulty is in the price.

8. I have waited for Roy Dulup's arrival with great impatience as no *Durbar* business can be transacted without him, and we have some points to settle of great consequence to your interest. We have already had too much occasion to observe the difficulties attending every application for money to the *Durbar*, and foresee they will encrease as the Nabob grows stronger and we become less necessary. Therefore, I have determined not to leave this ground till I procure sufficient assignments on the revenues of some country near Calcutta, for the annual payment of the money still due by treaty, together with proper writings from the zemindars of such country for the regular discharge of the same, which we may enforce if necessary. We have already obtained the Nabob's promise to comply as soon as his Minister arrives, but it was not without much private opposition from Juggatseat who, following the same method with regard to all debts due to him from the Government, has already demands on most of the zemindars. However, on being threatened with the loss of our friendship, he immediately desisted. It is not impossible but we may find Roy Dulup likewise averse to our carrying this point as he must become by it a good deal less necessary to us than when our applications were to be directed to him. But as the Nabob has given his promise and the matter now wholly rests with him, he cannot find any way of evading a compliance without a manifest breach of friendship, which I think he would not venture on in his present situation.

9. The *conagoes* having finished the survey of the granted lands and ascertained to what *purgunnahs* they belong, the *perwannah* for them is at last drawn out and signed by the Nabob. But it must still pass through the Minister's hands before it issues.

10. When I took leave of Roy Dulup at Muxadavad, he promised me that the first half yearly payment of the Nabob's debt, which by a former agreement was to be made in November, should be paid one half immediately in ready money and the rest as the November revenues came in. Mr. Scrafton was left at Muxadabad to see this performed. But I find the usual shifts and delays have been used; nevertheless, I hope to have it finished e'er long.

11. Mr. Watts still accompanies me in this campaign and I cannot omit the opportunity of remarking of what great service he is to your affairs by his thorough knowledge of the language and people of this country.

12. For the news of the Coast I must refer you to the gentlemen of Calcutta where undoubtedly they have better information than I can have here.

13. The merchants of Muxadavad have advices that Nizam Ally Cawn,^s assisted by the Morattoes, defeated and took prisoner his brother Salabad Jung before Monsr. Busie could arrive to his assistance. But I am doubtfull what credit to give to this intelligence.

14. Monsr. Law and his party proceeded to Illiabad, the capital of Oud, and it's said have entered into the service of Soojah Dowla undertaking to improve and manage his artillery. Monsr. Courtin,^s who went off from Dacca with a few men, having rambled far beyond the Nabob's limits,

returned towards Purnea in the late troubles. I have used all means to have him taken, but fear he has got out of our reach. Monsr. Sinfray, late Secretary of Chandernagore, was not so successful with the party that he had assembled, consisting chiefly of the French who escaped at Plassis. A detachment I sent after them took them in the Beerboon country in their way to Purnea to the number of 23, among whom were 4 Company's servants, who had given their parole at Charndernagore. This sufficiently shews both the activity of the French in India, and the little nicety they observe in the means of obtaining their ends.

15. Every reflection on the state of Bengal, and of India in general, confirms the necessity of sending out a large force. If a sufficient number of men cannot be embarked, small arms at least for raising support should not be omitted. Ten thousand stand will hardly be sufficient for Bengal alone. At present we have not a spare musquet and the consumption with the best care is always considerable in India. A large ship of powder will be likewise necessary in Bengal, for I see very little prospect of a sufficiency being made here or indeed any that is good.

16. I conclude the gentlemen of Calcutta will inform you what success they have had in enlisting the men of the King's detachment; as Colonel Adlercron's permission for their entering is but just arrived, I am unable to give you the account myself, but am persuaded if the men had not been alarmed by the late sickness not one would have refused your service.

17. Roy Dulup is arrived within 4 miles of us, so that I may expect a visit from him tomorrow. The Nabob is not yet determined whether to proceed on to Patna or not as the troubles seem entirely over. It is not improbable, but we may shortly receive our *cong  * for returning, when, if I find your affairs no longer require my stay in Bengal, I shall proceed to the Coast flattering myself of having executed fully and to your satisfaction the extraordinary commission I undertook.

I have the honor to remain with entire devotion and respect,

Honorable Sirs,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

Robert Clive.

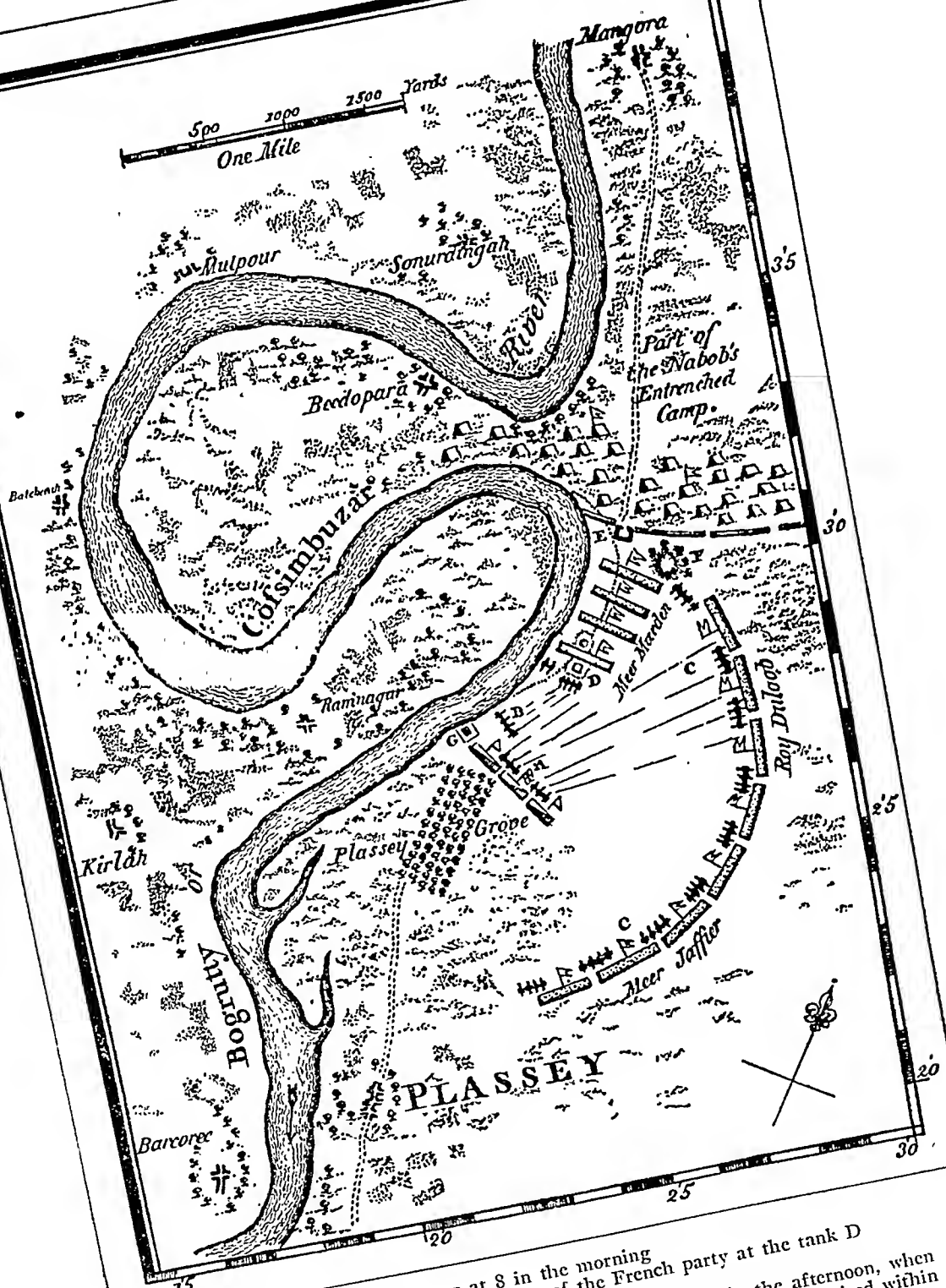
Camp at Fettiapoor, near Rajahmall,
23rd December 1757.

LETTER DATED 26 DECEMBER 1757

"All is peace in Bengal"—Two plans of the Battle of Plassey.

TO the Hon'ble Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Plan of the Battle of Plassey



- A Position of the British army at 8 in the morning
- B Four guns advanced to check the fire of the French party at the tank D
- C The Nawab's army
- D A tank from where the French party cannonaded till 3 in the afternoon, when part of the British army took post there, and the Nawab's troops retired within their entrenched camp
- E & F A redoubt and mound taken by assault at half past 4, and which completed the victory
- G The Nawab's hunting house

Honourable,

Since I last addressed Your Honors no material alteration has happened in the situation of your affairs here—all is peace in Bengal.

I take the liberty to forward to Your Honors two plans of the battle of Placis and am with the greatest respect,

Honourable,
Your most obedient servant,
Robert Clive.

Camp at Fettiapoor, near Rajahmall,
26th December 1757.

31

LETTER DATED 10 JANUARY 1758

Shipping news—Particulars of imports and exports—Provision of money for investment in Bengal—Saltpetre contract—Appointment of gomasthas in specified aurgas to implement scheme of investment—Sanad obtained for coining sicca—Appointment of committee to report on establishment of mint—Payment of part of stipulated sum by Mir Jafar—Territorial boundaries of the Company—Their presents to Mir Jafar and his officers—Europeans prohibited from farming lands outside the Company's territories—Mir Jafar's complaint about illicit trade—Weavers encouraged to settle around Lakshmipur factory—Assignment of revenue of certain villages to the Company against stipulated money—Advance of ten lacs to Admiral Pocock for distribution to navy—Posting of sepoy at Lakshmipur to arrest robbers—Brohier recommends fortification of Berhampore—Appointment of Mr. Amyatt as Chief of Patna—Reorganisation of the office and duties of Zamindar—Proposed erection of a factory in Kasimbazar—Particulars of bills of exchange—Reasons for demolishing Chandernagore—Payment to Europeans for losses suffered during the capture of Calcutta by Siraj-ud-Daulah—Appointment of a committee to examine the losses.

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honors,

1. We have addressed Your Honours this season by the several following opportunities:

Under date the—April 1757 by the *King's Fisher* sloop of war.

Under date the 20th August by the *Diligent* schooner, and

Under date the 12th September *via* Madrass.

Duplicate of the last letter and triplicate of that per *Diligent* schooner are enclosed in this packet.

2. By the letters forwarded *via* Madrass Your Honours will find that this ship was at first appointed to proceed in September to Fort St. George and be finally dispatched from that Presidency for Europe, with our reasons for altering

that appointment after she had taken in her whole cargo at this place and her dispatches upon the point of being closed. In that letter we gave a summary account only of our transactions to that time; our present address we shall range under the usual established heads and give Your Honors a full detail of our transactions and proceedings since the departure of the *Delawar* and *Walpole*.

First, of shipping

3. You have been already advised of our reasons for sending the *Phoenix* to Persia with a packett from the Select Committee. She was dispatched from hence the 1st of April and returned the beginning of October, after having delivered the packetts she was entrusted with at Gombroon and Bussorah.

4. The revolution which happened in the Government of these provinces, being so favourable to the Company's affairs and the early advice of it in Europe of so much consequence to their interest, will, we doubt not, make our measures approved of in sending home the *Diligent* schooner the latter end of August with that important intelligence. We hope she is arrived safe in England.

5. For the same reason the *Mermaid* sloop was dispatched to Madrass in August, but unfortunately was obliged to return through stress of weather after having got as far to the southward as the latitude of 16° north. On that sloop we consigned the President and Council of Fort St. George eight hundred bags of saltpetre which we find by their letters since received would have been of great service.

6. The appointment of the *Marlbro'* for Fort St. George being altered and the *Mermaid* sloop being returned without reaching that place, we freighted the *Syrian* and *Watson* sloops to carry the *Mermaid's* and *Marlbro's* packetts allowing the owners of each two thousand (2000) *sumnaut* rupees for that service.

7. Rear-Admiral Pocock on the 19th September made a tender of His Majesty's ship the *Kent* (then out of commission) to be brought on the Company's account at a valuation to be made by persons appointed by him and the Board. The majority of our members thinking the service she might be of to the Company would not be an equivalent for the expence of keeping her, we declined Mr. Pocock's offer and gave him our reasons for so doing.

8. We have the pleasure to acquaint Your Honours that the *Warwick*, Captain Nicholas Webb, arrived in the river on the 1st October having first touched at Tranquebar where Capt. Webb was informed of the arrival of a French fleet on the Coast, and that six of the largest ships had left Pondicherry and sailed to the northward as was by him supposed to attack Fort St. George or our ships in Madrass road, upon which he made the best of his way to Bengall.

9. The Medeira and bullion on the *Warwick* we landed. We have been obliged to detain about ninety (90) pipes of the consignment for Madrass, the Admiral having requested thirty five (35) pipes for the use of his squadron, and the number of military officers being so much encreased, that even after detaining so large a part of the wine designed for the Coast, we were not able

to sell above eighty four (84) pipes at outcry. The price they sold for will show Your Honors the demand there was in the place for that article. Enclosed we transmit an account current and account sale of the Madeira at outcry to the officers of the navy and army and to the covenanted servants.

10. Upon Capt. Webb's request we permitted him to bring the *Warwick* up to town, as we did the *Marlbro'* in consequence of a letter from Captain Macleod advising that she had sprung a leak, and the report of our Master Attendant who was sent to Culpee to survey her and inform us if it was absolutely necessary to heave her down. We have protested against Captain Macleod for the delay this has occasioned in her dispatch to Europe; copy of which protest is entered after our consultation of the 1st December.

11. Your Honor's ship the *Revenge* being ordered by the Admiral to proceed to Bombay, we applied to him for directions to the commander to take in some saltpetre for the use of that Presidency and have laden on her eight hundred (800) bags.

12. From Bombay we have received two schooners built there for our river service, conformable to the request we made in the year 1756. The *Diligent* which we have dispatched home is one of them, and the other (called the *Fort William*) is employed as a pilot schooner.

13. We have just received a letter by *pattamar* from the President and Council of Bombay dated the 9th October, informing us of their having ordered all the pepper which is laying ready at Tellicherry and Anjengo up to Bombay, as they had received news of a squadron of nine French ships being seen upon that coast and were apprehensive they might return there after having thrown succours into Pondicherry and make some attempt upon those settlements. In this letter they acquaint us it will not be in their power to assist in filling up for Europe any of the surplus tonnage from our side, as they are advised by a private letter from Captain Webb that six ships were taken up from their Presidency.

14. Upon the advice of a French squadron being upon the coast and the uncertainty of their force or designs, it was represented to us by Colonel Clive of the greatest consequence to send the Directors, Council, officers civil and military, and other inhabitants of Chandernagore, from Bengall that they might not directly or indirectly assist their countrymen in case they made an attempt upon this settlement. To do this there was but one way and that was to freight a large ship capable of holding all or the greatest part of the colony. The *Restitution* being the only ship then in readiness (of a proper size) to proceed to the Coast, we sent for Captain Durand and desired to know on what terms he would carry the gentlemen above mentioned to Fort St. George or Pondicherry. His demands were fifty thousand (50,000) *sumnaut* rupees for the freight of the ship, and the provisions, liquor etc., for the subsistence and accommodation of those he carried, and the owners to be indemnified by the Company in the sum of forty five thousand (45,000) current rupees, in case the ship was taken or seized by the enemy in her passage to Madrass or was seized and detained by them after her arrival at Pondicherry. These terms being too extravagant, we offered to indemnify the ship agreeable to his own demand and to allow the owners forty thousand (40,000) Arcot rupees for the freight of the vessel and the accommodation of the passengers, they finding

provisions, liquors etc., for their subsistence in a manner suitable to the rank and station they bore in their own settlement before the capture of it. This offer being accepted, we advised Monsr. Renault that we had prepared a ship for the above mentioned purpose, and desired he and the rest of the colony would embark on her for the Coast; but many of the gentlemen in station not having settled their private affairs, and others falling sick, a great number were permitted by the Admiral to remain till January, and the rest were sent to Madrass on the *Restitution*, the Select Committee there being desired to procure and settle to cartel with the Governour and Council of Pondicherry that she might proceed thither with security, otherwise to provide conveyances for carrying the French gentlemen on that ship to their own settlement.

15. John Andrews Esqr, your Chief at Bandamalanka, having purchased a snow from the French to bring himself and his family to Bengall, on his arrival here, delivered her over to us. She is now employed as a packett and we have given the command of her to Captain Thomas Hague.

16. Agreeable to your permission in your commands of the 29 December 1756, we have laden two hundred tonns of saltpetre on the *Marlbro'* reserving to ourselves the power of turning it into whole freight or half freight as we see occasion. We purpose doing the same on such other ship as we may dispatch immediately to Europe this season.

17. The *Boscawen*, captain—Benjemen Brammel, one of the ships destined for China, imported here the 8th December. By her the President and Council of Fort St. George acquaint us in two letters under date the 16th and 20th October that they have determined to return the *Norfolk* and *Princess Augusta* (two other ships destined for Canton) with a cargo of bales and pepper to Europe, that they should lade about two hundred tonns of bales on each of them and send them to Fort Marlobro' to be filled up with pepper, that the *Tavistock*, having received some damage and being found unfit to proceed to Europe, was out of the service and going to Bombay to refit.

18. They inform us in those letters that none of the Coast and Bay ships were then arrived on that coast, that their further intentions in the disposition of the ships above mentioned are, that the *Boscawen* and *Tavistock* (when sufficiently repaired) return to their coast and proceed in proper season in 1758 to Canton according to their original consignment, and that instead of the *Norfolk* and *Princess Augusta* they purpose to appoint two of the expected Coast and Bay ships (when they arrive) to that voyage; should all or any of the Coast and Bay ships proceed directly to this place without touching their coast, they request we will send up at least three of them (two of them for China and the third for Europe) as they reckon they shall have nearly a full loading of bales left after the dispatch of the *Norfolk* and *Princess Augusta*.

19. The President and Council of Fort St. George acquaint us likewise that we may depend on a sufficient quantity of surplus pepper at Bencoolen to compleat one ship's tonnage provided we can furnish one hundred and fifty (150) tonns of goods exclusive of kentlage and redwood.

20. As the Coast and Bay ships are not yet either here or on the Coast and it is probable they have lost their passage which will delay their arrival till February or later, in which case they cannot return home this season, we

have resolved to keep the *Boscawen* here to carry home the remainder of our investment in case the Coast and Bay ships do not import soon enough to be dispatched to Europe in charterparty time, as we imagine it would be a great prejudice to the Company's affairs to be disappointed of any part of the investment this season, so small a quantity of goods having been sent home last year.

21. The *Warwick*, Capt. Webb, we purpose sending to Fort St. George with three thousand (3000) bags of saltpetre and about four hundred (400) bales to be filled up and finally dispatched to Europe from that Presidency. She will leave the river about the 20th instant.

22. The *Duke*, Captain Thomas Powney, arrived in Bengall the latter end of September from the Coast and she has been refitted according to the request of the President and Council there and is now proceeding to Bencoolen with one thousand five hundred (1500) bags of rice and fifteen hundred (1500) gunny bags.

23. We have purchased all the serviceable anchors taken at Chander-nagore at a very reasonable rate, having paid the agents only eleven (11) current rupees for the hundredweight one with another. We request therefore Your Honours will send us no larger anchors than for the service of the sloops till we indent for them, having a number of large anchors by us.

24. The accompts current of Your Honours' sloops were layed before us on the 20th December by the Accomptant, and the value of them being settled by the Master Attendant, the difference was ordered to be wrote off to profit and loss.

25. We have not been able to order a survey of the river in October or November as usual, our sloops and pilots having been too much employed in other material business.

26. The accompt current of the *Marlbro'* is drawn up and transmitted in this packet agreeable to your orders, as are the reports survey of her within board, the Master Attendant's report of her condition upon springing a leak, with Captain Macleod's letters and requests under the numbers annexed to them in the list of packet.

*Secondly, of goods from Europe and from one part of
India to another*

27. Not having received the consignments of this season we have but little to say under this head. Our account sales transmitted in this packet will give Your Honours, we hope, satisfaction as the copper, lead etc., have sold exceeding well, and as the French are now dispossessed of their settlements in Bengall we have reason to believe our woollens will be soon in demand and therefore request a supply of such quantities and such sortments as we now indent for.

28. We have sent a small quantity of the different sorts of our broad cloth, perpets, copper etc., to Patna and Cuttaek in order to find a vend if possible for greater quantities than usually imported by Your Honors. When we hear from those places of the sale of what we have sent them, and how much may be disposed of annually at each, we shall advise Your Honours and insert the quantity in our indents,

29. By the *Triton* we received twenty (20) chests of bullion from the President and Council of Fort St. George, and by the *Warwick* twenty seven chests consigned that Presidency by Your Honors which we are coining into *siccas*.

30. We beg leave to observe that the velvets received from Madrass of the last year's consignment are extremely rotten and very inferior in quality to what the French Company usually sent. We are of opinion those articles would meet with a readier sale if the best of the kind were sent us, though they turn out higher in price.

31. A price current of Europe commodities [commodities] and the account remains in our import warehouse and store godowns are forwarded in this packet for your observation.

32. We have frequently indented for small guns for sale to our country ships and beg leave to request Your Honours will send some by each ship, as it now becomes more than ever necessary for our ships to be well equipped for defence.

33. We have supplied the other Presidencies with a considerable quantity of saltpetre by the several conveyances hereafter mentioned, and shall continue to send them more as opportunities offer.

To Bombay

On the <i>Revenge</i> eight hundred bags	...	...	800
On the <i>Edinburgh</i> five hundred bags	...	...	500
On the <i>Plymouth</i> ketch eight hundred	...	...	800
On the <i>Thames</i> four thousand	...	...	4000

6100 bags

To Madrass

On the <i>Darling</i> snow four hundred bags	...	...	400
On the <i>Drake</i> three thousand	...	...	3000
On the <i>Vizagapatam</i> snow four hundred	...	...	400
On the <i>Warwick</i> three thousand	...	...	3000

6800 bags

Thirdly, of investments

34. We have already informed Your Honours of the application we made to the Directore and Council of Hughley to contract with us for saltpetre and that on their delaying to give us any definitive answer whether they would or would not contract with us, we accepted [of] Omichund's offer of delivering into our godowns fifty eight thousand (58,000) maunds by the end of January, at six (6) Arcot rupees per factory maund. We have therefore nothing to add on that subject but that we have received from Omichund, in part of his contract, about twenty four thousand (24,000) maunds, and expect the remainder soon. He has been advanced on his contract one laack (100,000) of *sunnaut* rupees.

35. We advised likewise in our letter of the 12th September that *gomastahs* had been sent to the several *aurungs* for the provision of our investment. They have been supplied from time to time with the following sums of money viz.,

Santipore with one hundred and sixty eight thousand five hundred rupees.

Cuttorah with sixty four thousand rupees.

Keerpoy with two hundred forty eight thousand six hundred and seventy five rupees.

Malda with three hundred fifty two thousand four hundred and fifty rupees.

Harrial with three hundred eleven thousand nine hundred and seventy rupees.

Badaul with seventy one thousand six hundred and seventy rupees.

Gollagore with twenty thousand eight hundred rupees.

Burron with a hundred and four thousand eight hundred rupees.

Soonamooky with one hundred and one thousand two hundred and twenty rupees.

Hurripaul with a hundred and fifty four thousand six hundred and forty five rupees.

Calcutta with a hundred and sixty nine thousand seven hundred and twenty rupees.

great part of which has been invested in cloth, but we have not been able to compleat your orders of last year, which has been owing to the lateness of our beginning to purchase which we were prevented from setting about so early in the season as was necessary on account of the unsettled state of the country and the precarious terms we were upon with the former Nabob Seraja Dowla, which made it hazardous to risque the Company's money at the *aurungs*.

36. No part of Omichund's petre being arrived when the *Marlbro'* was lading for the Coast, we applied to the Directore and Council of Hughley to lend us four or five thousand bags. In consequence of this application they lent us four thousand bags which we have since repaid.

37. The purchase we made of redwood and white goods from the agents you are fully advised of in our letter of the 12th September, as well as the notice we gave that all ready money goods of the Company's sortments would be received and prized if offered by the 10th February 1758, with our reasons for publishing this notice.

38. Some of the sortments of coarse goods ordered by Your Honours being manufactured at Chandernagore by the French, we ordered the Export Warehouse Keeper to make the weavers there some small advances of money and to get those sortments made at that place.

39. By the last ship's packett we shall transmitt Your Honours a general accompt current of all our *aurungs* as also a particular account for each, by which you will observe the purchases made by the *gomastahs* and the balances of money remaining at their respective places.

40. A great part of the cloth received from the Nabob in part payment of the stipulations in his treaty being, we judge, fit for the Company and

reasonably prized, we have agreed to take on your account and it is sent home by this year's ships. We hope they will yield the Company a very handsome profit, as the fabricks are of an extraordinary goodness. But we beg leave to remark that it would not be in our power to provide those sortments of equal goodness, should Your Honours think proper to order any quantity, as they were made on account of and by orders of the Nabobs of this place.

41. A large parcel of our *aurung* cloth being carried to Muxadavad by the Government's officers during our expulsion, it was delivered to the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar who forwarded the whole parcel to Calcutta upon the coming on of fresh disputes. When those were over and the government settled, we sent the different sortments to the respective *aurungs* they were made at to be dressed by our *gomastahs*, the greatest part of which will be forwarded home this season.

42. We shall now proceed to give Your Honours a summary recital of our correspondence with the several subordinates relative to their investment beginning with Cossimbuzar.

43. The peace with Seraja Dowla was no sooner made than we sent servants to all our subordinates to settle and adjust the losses of each factory and receive the money, goods and effects seized by the Nabob's officers. Messrs Watts, Collet, Hastings and Sykes were ordered to Cossimbuzar, and on the 7th March began to receive the charge of the factory, after which they had the *putney*, broad cloth etc., delivered them with the sum of 260,000 *sicca* rupees account their factory at Dacca, all which the Company have been duely credited for. Great part of the *putney* remains yet unwound and cannot be got ready for this year's shipping.

44. As we were from the first apprehensive that the peace made with Seraja Dowla was not to be relied on, we directed the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar on the 9th March to send to Calcutta what goods they received as soon as they could get them ready. The same orders having been sent to all our subordinates we mention it in this place to avoid repetition. These orders were repeated two or three times as will appear by our consultations and letter book.

45. In a letter of the 20th March the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar informed us there was a large quantity of Comercolly *putney* included in the five hundred (500) maunds received from the Nabob, which could not be wound off at Cossimbuzar but must be sent to Comercolly for that purpose, desiring to know whether they should employ *gomastahs* to do it, or if we chose to send a covenanted servant. Mr. Randolph Marriott having been employed in that branch of business before the loss of the settlement, we desired him to move there again and wound off the *putney* received from the Nabob. He set out in consequence of these orders sometime in May; but the ensuing troubles prevented him from going to Comercolly with the *putney*, and since those troubles have been over he has been too much engaged in the military to be taken off, there being at present a great scarcity of officers. We have however stationed him at that factory and have ordered him to attend the Company's business there as soon as he can be spared from the military.

46. In consequence of our orders for sending down their goods, money, etc., the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar dispatched away on the 11th May sixty

(60) chests of silk piece goods and fifty eight (58) chests of treasure received from Mr. Watts which arrived safe.

47. After the death of Seraja Dowla and establishing of Jaffier Ally Khan in the government of these provinces, Mr. Manningham went up to Muxadavad to assist the gentlemen of Council in settling the mercantile parts of the treaty; to Mr. Watts and him therefore we addressed a letter on the 11th July desiring they would use their best endeavours to procure an investment of silk and silk piece goods to be forwarded to Europe by the ships of this season, and as we were informed the merchants who had purchased the Company's silk from Seraja Dowla were willing to dispose of it upon the same terms, we empowered those gentlemen to purchase it, and to prevail if possible upon the Cossimbuzar merchants to furnish a proportion of *gurrahs*. They replied to this letter under date the 27th July and as it appeared to them that employing a *gomastah* would be the most likely method of keeping up the fabrick of the piece goods, they have entertained Kissennundah Surma (a man of substance) in that office, at a hundred *sicca* rupees per mensem, and had given him directions to provide the goods ordered in the list of investment for Cossimbuzar factory on the cheapest terms he could, that the accompts were to be delivered to the Chief and Council at Cossimbuzar, and all advantages of *cussore*, *batta* etc., to be brought to the Company's credit, the outstanding debts (if clearly proved) to be on account the Company, that the *gomastah* had agreed to deliver in as large a part of the goods he was ordered to provide, as could possibly be got in time for this year's ships, and that as none fit for the Company's use could be purchased for ready money, they hoped we should approve of the step they had taken.

48. The method followed by those gentlemen being approved of by the Board, we advised them of it and permitted them to advance the *gomastah* such sums of money as they thought proper to make the purchases with expedition.

49. Fifteen (15) bales of raw silk were dispatched from Cossimbuzar on the 26th July which arrived safe, and on the fifth of September fifty nine (59) more were forwarded from that factory, that being the quantity of ready wound off silk which they bought of the merchants who were forced by Seraja Dowla to take it.

50. Messrs Hastings, Sykes and Hugh Watts forwarded to us on the 16th October musters of Guzzerat and November Bund silk wound off from the September *putney*, the first at seven (7) *dussmassa* rupees the A and the other at six rupees seven annas (6-7). Upon inspecting those musters we thought the prices very reasonable but the silk was rather of too inferior quality for the Company's use, of which we advised those gentlemen and directed them to forward as soon as they could the musters of silk wound off from the November Bund *putney*, which they have promised to comply with. When those musters are sent we shall give our final directions for the provision of raw silk for the ensuing year.

51. The gentlemen at Dacca in a letter of the 19th March informed us of their having received twenty one thousand (21,000) pieces of cloth belonging to their factory from the Nabob of that city, and that they could make shift to get about eighty (80) or a hundred (100) bales of goods ready on fifteen days'

warning but that the remainder would require a slight washing. In that letter they told us they were settling the *delolls'* and *picars'* account who agreed to give fresh acknowledgments for their ballances; at the same time they expected to have fresh advances made them equal to what they were obliged to pay into the Nabob's treasury; otherwise it would be impossible for them to give in the remaining cloths as a large proportion of what they were advanced for was still in the looms unfinished for want of money to advance the weavers to enable them to go on. This demand of their *delolls* and *picars* being esteemed reasonable, we permitted them to make such advances as they judged proper to enable them to comply with their former contracts, for which end we desired Mr. Watts to procure bills on the shroffs at Dacca in their favour to the amount of a laack of rupees, but directed the gentlemen at that factory to let the advances they made be as small as possible and good security taken that the Company were no sufferers.

52. Mr. Watts having wrote the gentlemen at Dacca to be on their guard as a rupture with the Government seemed near, they instantly prepared boats and on the 8th May dispatched one hundred and five (105) bales of the worked cloths and other fine sortments belonging to the Company under the care of Mr. Middleton, who they had requested to take charge of their goods, and make the best of his way to Duny Colly creek, there to remain till the arrival of the sloop we designed to send with seepoys, which he was to go on board of and take charge of her with half the seepoys and forward the rest instantly to Dacca for the safety of the remaining part of the Company's goods (which they were then packing to send away—brown, half washed, damaged etc., all together) and that in case he heard of their being seized or stopt by the Government to make the best of his way to Calcutta.

53. Upon receipt of the above mentioned advice we wrote the gentlemen at Dacca to give orders for the one hundred and five (105) bales sent under care of Mr. Middleton to proceed to Calcutta immediately. Before the receipt of these orders they had recalled Mr. Middleton with the bales under his care as they imagined from a letter since wrote them by Mr. Watts that the late appearances of troubles were blown over for that time; and as the rainy season had set in so early this year they imagined that by the 5th July they should have all their bales packed and in the boats ready to be dispatched to Calcutta unless for [*sic*] some unforeseen accident prevented their progress in dressing.

54. Under date the 28th May they informed us of their having dispatched fifty four (54) bales to us compleatly dressed and repacked in their proper sortments, and that in consequence of our last advices they shall forbear making any advances to the *delolls* whose ballances are collecting in as fast as possible. The above bales arrived in Calcutta the 19th June.

55. The several servants belonging to the subordinates being ordered to return after the defeat of Seraja Dowla, the gentlemen of Dacca factory set out from hence early in September and arrived there the 20th where they found the Company's effects in the same good order they had left them and advised us they should set about making their purchases the moment they could settle matters with the *delolls* and *picars*.

56. Those gentlemen having on the withdrawing their factory brought away some goods with them not properly dressed, we returned them to be properly sorted and dressed at Dacca.

57. The 15 September the gentlemen at Dacca enclosed us an invoice of some stick lack sent us on the Company's account and observed to us that there was but an indifferent prospect at that factory of making any considerable investment to go home by this year's shipping as the cloth brought in by *gomastahs* and others turned out so extravagantly dear; they were under a necessity of repeating it both for their own credit and for the benefit of the ensuing year's purchases.

58. In the foregoing letter the gentlemen at Dacca recommended the giving out the *puttun* for the ensuing year's investment as early as November, and for that purpose requested a laak of rupces as soon as convenient, which we have since complied with, and hope to be able to send Your Honours a good investment of cloth from that factory by the ships of next season.

59. By a letter from those gentlemen dated the 21 October, we learned they had dispatched on a sloop and six *mutwas* several balcs of cloth amounting as per invoice to rupces two hundred and thirty two thousand eight hundred and fourteen, ten annacs, six pice (232814-10-6) current, which with the sixty four (64) bales sent down in May last included the full quantity returned by the Government, excepting six hundred (600) picces of *dooreas* and *tanjebis* which they had kept in hand for flowering early next season, between eighty and a hundred picces of *cusseda* not yet received from the *ruffagurrahs*, a few picces of musters and about six hundred and fifty pieces of different kinds of cloth which for want of proper care being taken of them while in the Government's possession were so rotten that they could not bear the washing nor could they be mended. These they requested our permission to sell at outcry for what they would fetch.

60. The gentlemen at Dacca in the above letter have desired the following remarks might be inserted in our general advices to Your Honours for your observation viz., that of the cloths returned to them by the Government the largest proportion (exclusive of the flowcred) had been by them purchased and pass in accounts with the *delolls*, that, of those, many were prized higher than what we usually purchased and were inferior in quality; but in the *puttun* sortments likewise there are a great proportion of the lower letters but few of the first and second. This they observed on the receipt of the cloth but as there were no names marked at the head of each piece of cloth (conformable to our practice) they could not return the bad cloth not knowing from what *delolls* they had been taken, that they had invoiced them at the same prices as they were pass [sic] in their account with the Government, nor had they been able to pack them separate from their own, the sortments being so many and the quantities of each so small, and that the *mahnudhiattees* and *cossajinat dooreas* on opening will be found bad in their kinds which were every piece purchased by the Government.

61. We have before informed Your Honours of our having resettled the Patna factory, and our reasons for so doing. The troubles which immediately followed that appointment with other circumstances have prevented any considerable purchases being made either of saltpetre or cloth; a small quantity of both has been provided by Mr. Pearkes as you will observe by his letters, to which we beg leave to refer with our answers and remarks on the musters he sent us for inspection. By his last letters we observe he has contracted for fifty one thousand (51,000) maunds of petre at two rupces fourteen

annacs (2-14) *sicca* per factory maund, and as Mr. Amyatt has carried with him one laack of rupees for the use of Patna factory, we flatter ourselves that for the future we shall be able to provide the petre and Patna cloth indented for by Your Honors on more reasonable terms than we have bought them at for some years past, especially as the government is now settled so much in favor of the English that there will be little or no *durbar* charges at our subordinates and as the *gauts* and *chowkeys* will not presume to exact such sums from our Patna boats as formerly they did.

62. We have but little to observe concerning Luckypore and Ballasore factories, more than in general to inform you the gentlemen at those places having invested the whole amount of the monies they were at first supplied with, we have sent a further supply to each factory; and as we have now no competitors at Luckypore and Jugdea, we doubt not the investments from thence will be approved of and the prices reduced. The musters of *sannoos* sent us by Mr. Playdell for inspection proved extremely good and reasonably prized, but we have recommended it to him to get the weavers to raise the *sarry* one letter and have permitted him to allow them a proportionable advance in the price.

*Fourthly, of the trade of India and transactions with the
country Government*

63. Immediately after the peace concluded with Seraja Dowla, Mr. Watts was sent to Muxadavad to see the articles of that peace punctually performed and the goods, moneys and effects seized by the Nabob and his officers at our subordinates and *aurungs* delivered up to the servants and *gomastahs* we sent to receive charge of them.

64. Mr. Watts having wrote the Select Committee on the 9 March to send the Company's and private people's *gomastahs* to Muxadavad with particular accounts of the losses sustained by the Company and private people, either in the fort or at the *aurungs*, the Committee layed an abstract of this letter before the Board, in consequence of which we ordered the heads of every office to draw out particular accounts of the losses sustained in their respective offices to be transmitted to Mr. Watts and directed the Export Warehouse Keeper *pro tempore* to get the *gomastahs'* accounts of losses and seizures at the *aurungs* made out and sent with the *gomastahs* themselves in order to explain and settle their own accounts.

65. Public notice was likewise given of Mr. Watts his letter, that the inhabitants might send a state of their losses and endeavour to obtain restitution.

66. Mr. Watts in the above mentioned letter having acquainted the Committee that the Nabob desired we would send for the zemindars of the thirty eight villages to be held by the English Company by virtue of the late treaty, agree with them for the possession of their towns and lands, we requested the President to write letters to those zemindars and demand of them the terms they want for siding [*sic*] to us the zemindary and possession of the thirty eight villages mentioned in our *phirmaund*.

67. By the letters from our subordinates we had the pleasure to find that a very exact and particular account had been taken of the money, goods and

effects seized at the several factories which were returned almost without any loss. Such parts of the goods as had been sold by the Government were regularly accounted for and the amount repaid.

68. The account of *aurung* loss and ballances being laid before the Board, the Export Warehouse Keeper was ordered to send the *gomastahs* away to Muxadavad directly and the accounts were transmitted by the Board to Mr. Watts. Upon settling accounts with the Nabob's people our gentlemen at Cossimbuzar received 18835 pieces of cloth that were carried away from our *aurungs* to Muxadavad; what had been brought to Calcutta and sold there, was made a separate account of and Monickhund ordered to adjust it. But it was never compleated or made good, the settling of those accounts being delayed under various pretexts till the rupture with Seraja Dowla broke out. As there has been some loss sustained by the Company for goods and monies plundered at our *aurungs*, we have desired the Export Warehouse Kceper to draw up a state of the seizures, and what has been returned either in money or goods, that Your Honours may see it in one view.

69. Mr. Watts on the 11th April forwarded down to Calcutta, copies of fifteen *perwannahs* and *dustucks* for the currency of our business in the country and informed us that he hoped to get a *perwannah* for the coining of *siccas* in a day or two. A translate of the above mentioned *perwannahs* and *dustucks* are entered after our consultation of the 21st April and a copy of each was sent to every rajah, zemindar, fowdsar etc., in whose districts we carried on business.

70. In April we dispatched a *pattamar* to Bombay and advised the President and Council there we were endeavouring to procure sixty thousand (60,000) maunds of petre, that we should be glad to know what quantity they were in want of and whether they would chuse to have any part landed at Anjengo or Tellicherry. They since indented for five hundred (500) tonns of petre and have desired the whole might be sent to the Presidency itself.

71. The Select Committee having received the *perwannah* for coining of *siccas* and their currency from Mr. Watts, layed the same before us on the 28th April after which consultation a translate of them are entered.

72. In consequence of the intelligence given us by the Select Committee of the Nabob's conduct in respect to the English and the probability of another rupture with the Government, we ordered an armed sloop with a serjeant and six seepoys to be sent to Luckypore to favor the retreat of the gentlemen there and at Dacca, in case they should be obliged to come away precipitately. Some time after, the *Hunter* schooner was dispatched there for the same purpose and brought the gentlemen down when the troubles broke out in June.

73. The *Aurung* Committee having informed that the keys of the godowns where the Company's cloth was kept at several *aurungs* being taken away by the Nabob's people and carried to Muxadavad, the cloth left in those godowns was by that means great damaged and rotten for want of air. Upon this representation we wrote to Mr. Watts about it, and directed him to demand the loss which the Company would suffer by this neglect.

74. About the beginning of May Messrs Sumner and Waller having wrote the President they were apprehensive by some advices received from Cossimbuzar that we should soon have another rupture with the Government

and that in such case, they could probably save a great part of the Company's goods and effects at their factory, had they orders to act discretionally, we gave those gentlemen and Messrs Verelst and Smith at Luckypore discretionary powers to do the best they could, should there happen any fresh disturbances in the country.

75. Some of the *chowkeys* adjacent to Calcutta having stopt provisions that were coming into town and exacted money from the people, upon a complaint of it to the Board, the President was requested in such cases to send for the offenders and punish them for acting so directly counter to the treaty subsisting between the English and the Nabob.

76. Scraja Dowla by his treaty of the 9th March having assented to our establishing a mint in Calcutta for the coinage of *siccas* and a proper *sumnud* being afterwards obtained for our using that priviledge, with *perwannahs* for the currency of our *siccas* in the provinces of his subalship, we desired Mr. Watts to procure for us as many people who understood the business of the mint as he could entertain in our service, that there might be no objection made to the weight, standard or impression of our *siccas*. These people being procured and sent to Calcutta, the Board took into consideration in what manner to establish the mint for the advantage of the Company; but as it was judged absolutely impossible to fix it upon any beneficial footing till the method and charge of coining, assaying and other particulars were known, which could not so well be tryed and ascertained by the Board as by a particular committee appointed immediately for that purpose, it was on the 13th June agreed that the President, Mr. Frankland and Mr. Boddam should be a committee to assay the fineness of the silver proper for the *sicca* standard, to ascertain the charge of coining, the method of conducting the mint to the greatest advantage for the Company's and how much a hundred *sicca* weight of different kinds of bullion will produce; of their proceedings and experiments they were to make a report to the Board for their final determination and regulation. This Committee on the 4th July informed the Board they had coined four thousand (4000) *siccas* from Mexico dollar bullion and that as soon as they had made a tryal of two or three sorts of bullion, they would deliver in their report. But the revolution in the government having made it necessary to procure a fresh *sumnud* and fresh *perwannahs* for the currency of our *siccas*, the report of the Committee could not be delivered in till the 26th September when a report of the produce of dollars and *sumnaut* rupees was laid before the Board and entered upon the face of our consultation of that day. We then considered in what manner to settle that important and advantageous priviledge and agreed to fix it for the present on the Madrass establishment, that is, a duty of five per *mille* to be collected for the Company on all private money coined in our mint, the charge of coinage to be computed at twenty per *mille* and a profit of ten per *mille* to be allowed the mint Undertaker for his trouble, and the Company's bullion to be charged with the nett expence of coinage only. This establishment being fixed, Messrs Frankland and Boddam were appointed Mint Masters or Undertakers and the gentlemen at Muxadavad wrote to for a further number of coiners both for gold and silver. A specimen of our *siccas* were sent to Muxadavad, and presented to the Nabob and *darbar* officers, and the weight and standard examined by Juggutseat and approved of. We have been constantly employed in coining both for the Company and some private

persons, but as yet there is some difficulty in passing our *siccas*, of which we have complained at the *darbar*, and have the satisfaction to learn from Mr. Sraffon that the currency of them has been ordered by beat of the *dandurra* through the streets of Muxadavad and a *mutchulka* given by the principal shroff that they shall be received the same as Muxadavad *siccas*. We therefore flatter ourselves that our money will very shortly be as current as that coined in the metropolis of the subaship, when we have hopes the Company will reap very considerable advantages from their mint, as will likewise the private inhabitants of this place. In order to make a tryal of the force of the late orders and proclamation we have sent eighty thousand Calcutta *siccas* to Cossimbuzar for the ensuing year's investment and shall advise Your Honors if they are received without difficulty or if any objections are made to them.

77. The money received from the Nabob being mostly *sunnaut* rupees, the *batta* of which was falling very low, we wrote to the gentlemen at Muxadavad to inform us if it would give the Nabob and Juggutseat offence should we recoin those rupees, to which they replied that upon conversing with Roy Doolub on the subject we wrote about, the privilege of our mint was explained to extend to the re-coining of any monies the Company received into their treasury for payment of goods purchased or on account their revenues. They sent us likewise several other remarks upon the nature of the *sunnaud* we have obtained for coining *siccas*, and what use the Government expected we should make of this privilege, all which is extracted at large on our consultation of the 4th August.

78. We have the pleasure to inform Your Honors that the word Allenagore is by our present *sunnaud* to be omitted in the impression on our *siccas*, an indulgence we could not obtain from Seraja Dowla.

79. On the 11 July the Select Committee acquainted the Board the Nabob (Jasseir Aly Khan) had paid on account of the sum due from him to the Company by virtue of his treaty thirty three lack and a third of rupees which was on its way to Calcutta.

80. From the President and Council of Bombay we have received bills on sundry shroffs at Muxadavad for *sicca* rupees two hundred and forty six thousand (246,000) which has been duly received by the gentlemen there and employed part for the investment of piece goods at Cossimbuzar and part has been advanced Collonel Clive and our Commissary for the expences of the army.

81. After our consultation of the 18th July Your Honors will find a translate of the treaty made with Jasseir Aly Khan entered, and on the face of our consultation of the 25th of July the Select Committee acquainted the Board a new and ample treaty was forming at Muxadavad to be executed afresh by the Nabob on part and the Governor and Council on the other, and desired the Board would mention any alterations or additions they esteemed necessary that it might be inserted in the new treaty. By our letter of the 20th August Your Honors will observe what additions the Board judged proper to make. Hitherto that treaty has not been formed for want of the grants of the lands being confirmed, and possession of them given the Company, which is so material an article that we chuse to have it minutely inserted in one of the articles of the new treaty and to obtain if possible a *phirmaund* from Delhie confirming those grants to the Company and their successors.

82. That article of the treaty with Jaffier Aly Khan relating to the Company's holding the zemindarry of all the lands to the southward of Calcutta as far down as Culpee being very inexplicit, as it did not specifye the extent of our possessions to the eastward, we wrote to the gentlemen at Muxadavad and desired they would get that part of the treaty explained to prevent future disputes. This has been done by those gentlemen and we find the Company are to hold all the lands to the southward of Calcutta as far as Culpee, lying between the river to the west and the great lake to the eastward, whose course the gentlemen at Muxadavad recommended to us to get traced by an able person and a plan made of the seite of our territories with the villages it contained, number of inhabitants, nature of the country etc. Such a survey at the . . . time of year, they wrote, was impracticable; the most which could then be done was to trace the course of the lake, it's depth of water and communication with *nullas* and rivers to the southward and eastward, from a knowledge of which many advantages to the settlement might arise. Capt. Barker was desired to set out upon this survey in company with the *connegor's* man sent down from Muxadavad. He has likewise to assist him Capn. Wm. Swallow as well as several natives who were reckoned to be versed in those kinds of surveys and had some knowledge of the course they were to take and of the countries they were to examine. Upon Captain Barker's return he delivered in a report of his proceedings with a plan of the lake and it's communications. Copy of this plan will be forwarded home as soon as ready, Captain Barker's indisposition having delayed it hitherto.

83. Your Honors will find that we sent up a handsome present to Muxadavad of broad cloth, velvet, brocades and other curious things to be presented the Nabob and *darbar* officers. We have likewise made some other trifling presents to the *Phowsdar* of Hugley and the nabob *chubdar* who brought the *seerpaws* for the President and the Admiral; which expence we flatter ourselves you will have no objection to when it is considered how small the amount is and how necessary such presents are to keep up our interest at the *darbar*.

84. We were desirous of making the annual *piscash* payable in future at Muxadavad instead of Hughley treasury; but upon addressing the gentlemen of Council who were at Muxadavad upon that subject who informed us of it's being expressly mentioned in the *phirmaund* to be paid at Hughley where there is a royal treasury, we have waved that point as unnecessary.

85. Mr. John Bristow our Resident at Cuttack having wrote to the Select Committee that the government there was desirous of his hoisting the English flag at his house and were willing to give him a spot of ground to build a house or factory on, which he represented to the Committee might prove very advantageous to the Company, by finding a vend for some of their imports of woollen goods etc., and as the Board judged there could be no impropriety or offence given by hoisting our flag in that city, we permitted Mr. Bristow to do it provided the Governour of Cuttack approved of it.

86. After our consultation of the 11 August Your Honors will find entered translate of a paper delivered the Nabob by the Dutch *vacheel*, wherein they make some very extraordinary demands. But we have the satisfaction to learn it met with no favourable reception, and that the Nabob was much displeased at the purport of it.

87. Upon a representation being made to the Board that many of the European inhabitants of Calcutta had farmed towns and villages without the Company's bounds from which practise many inconveniences and disputes with the country Government might arise, we resolved therefore to put a stop to such proceedings immediately and accordingly interdicted the Europeans of this settlement by a publick advertisement from farming or holding any lands, towns or villages under the jurisdiction of the rajahs and zemindars whose lands are without the Company's boundaries.

88. In a letter of the 27 August the gentlemen at Muxadavad acquainted us of complaints being made to them of natives carrying on a considerable trade without *dusticks* under English colors, to which they had returned for answer, that all goods belonging to the Company going to or coming from the *aurungs* and subordinates were accompanied with *dusticks*, and that if any of the natives or others assumed English colors to defraud the Government of their duties or carry on an illicit trade, we gave no sanction thereto and that all boats with merchandize not having *dusticks* were at their discretion, of which they desired us to give public notice to the inhabitants of Calcutta that none may plead ignorance.

89. Which answer of theirs being approved of by the Board, we advised the gentlemen at Muxadavad they had done right and that we should give no sanction to any illicit trade carried on without *dusticks*. In this letter we recommended it to them to get the duty annulled which Hookumbeg had exacted, account the purchasers of sugar, and as that was a downright imposition we hoped there would be no difficulty made in forbidding the *patchottra drogha* to demand it in future.

90. Having coined some *fooley* mohurs pursuant to the request of the gentlemen at Muxadavad, we sent up twelve (12) to them to present as a *nizariunny* and to get their weight and standard assayed by Juggutscat, which they accordingly did and informed us the weight was exact but the standard of the gold one *rutty* short in fineness.

91. Your Honours will observe by the course of our correspondence with the gentlemen at Muxadavad that a part of the first moiety received from the Nabob has been paid in jewells, gold and cloth. The two first remain in our treasury still, very little having been sold, nor do we believe the jewells can be disposed of till the country is entirely settled and quiet. The gold we shall coin into mohurs by which method there will be little or no loss and we have already advised of our having taken such sortments of the cloth as we judge fit for the Europe market, and rest of it shall be sold at publick outcry and the loss if any be carried to the account of the parties concerned in it.

92. Some goods belonging to Cojah Wazeed and others at Hughley having been taken by some of our sloops during the troubles in 1756, we have delivered them up to the proprietors of them since the treaty made with the Nabob, as we imagined it would occasion disputes and disagreements at the *darbar*, should those people make a complaint there, as the Nabob has bound himself to pay so large a sum of money in consideration of all damages sustained by the capture of our settlement.

93. The gentlemen at Muxadavad under date the 13th September having taken notice of some complaints made them by the Nabob of abuses committed

in and about Calcutta which upon enquiry we found to be groundless, we replied very fully to their letter and assured them matters had been much misrepresented to the Nabob and that the particulars they had pointed out were far from being well grounded. An extract of their letter and our answer is entered upon the face of our consultation of the 19th September to which we beg leave to be referred.

94. Messrs Verelst and Smyth under date the 17th September informed the Board that the weavers from all parts in their neighbourhood were daily requesting permission to settle and reside under our protection, but that the bounds round their factory not being sufficient to accommodate any great number they offered to our consideration the renty [*sic*] of Luckypore *pergunnuh* the annual rent of which is only eight hundred (800) rupees and that the revenues collected even from the *riotts* now on the island will more than reimburse that charge.

95. The proposal before mentioned being considered and there appearing a probability of great advantage arising to the Company from it in future, we addressed the gentlemen at Muxadavad upon the subject and desired them to apply for the rent of that *pergunnah* which we have the pleasure to hear from Mr. Scrafton has been obtained and a *perwannah* delivered him for the Company and their successors to hold it of the Government upon paying annually the sum of eleven hundred and seven *siccas* into the Nabob's treasury. As soon as we receive this *perwannah* we shall forward it to the gentlemen at Luckypore and direct them to make the best use they are able of this grant for the advantage of our employers by encouraging as great a number of weavers as they can to reside within our bounds and manufacture as large a part of their investment as they can under their own immediate inspection.

96. As a means to prevent the abuse of *dustucks* and the exactions of *chowkeys*, *gauts* etc., we have established a number of *dustucks* peons with badges carrying a Persian inscription signifying their being the Company's servants. With every *dustuck* one of these peons is sent who is responsible for the goods passing free of all duties and imposition, and after the delivery of the goods, the peon is ordered to return the *dustuck* to the President to be cancelled that no further use may be made of that *dustuck*. We have rated the *dustucks* at five (5) rupees each in order to defray this additional expence.

97. Being advised from Luckypore that the Mugghs and other robbers are making depredations in their neighbourhood and that they are apprehensive they may attempt our factory itself which is in no state of defence, we have ordered the gentlemen at Dacca to send part of their seepoys to Luckypore and shall supply them from hence with a few pieces of small cannon (agreeable to their request) and ammunition.

98. We have the pleasure to inform Your Honors that a *sunnud* has passed the seals for the Company to possess the zemindarry of the lands to the southward of Calcutta; a copy of that *sunnud* has been forwarded to the Select Committee, and the original one with copies under the *Caujee's* seal are daily expected. When those are received we shall take possession, and the Select Committee will then inform Your Honors minutely of what relates to the management and improvement of those territories.

99. Mr. Luke Scrafton who resides at Muxadavad to attend Roy Doolub

to the squadron was accepted and requested an order for the money. But the President being of opinion that the refusal of that offer when made by the Board exempted us from abiding by it, and that circumstances had altered greatly since making that offer, he put the question to the Board whether the advance agreed to be made the navy should stand good or not. Messrs Clive, Becher, Frankland, Collett, Mackett, Amyatt and Boddam were of opinion it should be abided by, their reasons for which are entered at large on the face of that day's consultation, to which we beg leave to be referred. The President having dissented to making that advance for many reasons, which are likewise entered on that day's proceedings, we must refer Your Honors to them for particulars.

105. That point being settled, the agents next desired to know on what terms we would take their proportion of jewels, gold and cloth which were articles they could not so easily dispose of as gentlemen who were to remain on the spot, and as the jewels would not be of near the value to be carried out of Bengal for sale. As the amount of their proportion of gold, jewels and cloth was no very great sum and as the profits of the gold would probably be adequate to the loss on the jewels, the Board agreed to take those articles from the squadron at the valuation put upon them in the invoice, which being very satisfactory to the agents, an order was given to the Committee of Treasury to advance the navy the sum of ten lack of such rupees as we had received from the Nabob on account of his treaty and to pay them the amounts of their proportion of gold, jewels and cloth. As likewise their part of the ballance due from the Nabob, account the first moiety.

106. As it would have disgusted the army to have made the navy this advance if we had refused the same indulgence to them, we consented to put them upon the same footing and have accordingly advanced out of Your Honours' treasury the sum of CRs. 26,24,484-6 in full of all demands on the Nabob from the army and navy, their ballances being assigned over to the Hon'ble Company.

107. The Select Committee have been desired to write to the Nabob that we have advanced this money to the navy and army in consequence of his promise to repay it agreeable to his contract. The President did accordingly write him to that effect and has been answered that we may depend on his punctual observance of his promises.

Fifthly, of buildings, fortifications and revenues

108. Upon the receipt of a letter from the Hon'ble the Secret Committee to our President advising of the orders given for Mr. Brohier's being sent to Bengall to fortifye this settlement, and the method to be followed in purchase of materials etc., for carrying on the works with dispatch and economy, we appointed the President, Mr. William Frankland and Mr. William Mackett with Captain Brohier when upon the spot to be a standing committee of works, to survey all stores and materials wanted for them, to lay their prices before the Board, and if approved of, then to purchase them, with all other matters and things relating to the new fortifications to be erected here. In consequence of this appointment the Committee have advertised that we shall be in want of all articles for building and that we shall purchase them of those who offer

on the most reasonable terms. They have contracted likewise for bricks of the proper dimensions, for baskets etc. The subordinates have been wrote to for such materials or workmen as each can supply. A *perwannah* has been procured of the Nabob to purchase fifty thousand (50,000) maunds of *chunam* at Silhut, and all other methods taken for carrying into execution the works planned by Captain Brohier with the utmost expedition.

109. Soon after Captain Brohier's arrival he made a cursory survey of the town and what works were immediately wanted for it's defence, of which he advised the Board by letter, copy whereof we transmitted in the packet designed per *Marlborough* that Your Honors might know as early as possible what his designs were and what number of men it would require to keep in garrison here. By this ship we send for your observation a draught of the citadel and outworks Captain Brohier proposes to build, with the dimensions thereof, which having been approved of by the Board is begun, and will be compleated with all the expedition in our power, and that there might be no interruption or impediment complained of for want of being supplied with the artificers, laborers required by Captain Brohier we have put every artificers and workmen in the Company's employ under his direction, and have ordered the heads of all offices to apply to him for such people as they may want for the business of their respective offices.

110. The gentlemen of Muxadavad having desired Capt. Brohier might be sent there to view the factory at Cossimbuzar and give his opinion how it might be fortified, he proceeded up accordingly in September. During his absence we ordered Messrs Court, Simon and Wedderburn to make a survey of such European houses as it would be necessary to level for an esplanade to the citadel. A report of their valuation is entered after our consultation of the But Captain Brohier on his return from Cossimbuzar having altered his first choice of the spot for a citadel to be built on, few of those houses will require being levelled. We have been obliged to remove all the natives out of Govindpore where the new citadel will stand, the brick houses having been valued in the most equitable manner and when reported to the Board will be paid for; those who dwelt in thatched houses have had a consideration made them for the trouble and expence of removing, and have been allowed ground in other parts of the town and outskirts to settle in.

111. Copy of the indent for military stores transmitted per *Diligent* schooner is enclosed in this packett and we hope will be fully complied with, as the safety of the settlement and preservation of the Company's possessions in Bengall will depend on our being for the future well prepared in every respect for defence in case of being attacked either by an European or a country power; and as the strongest and best designed works can be of little service unless supplied with proper cannon and military stores to enable the garrison to maintain them.

112. Seraja Dowla in the late rupture having destroyed our factory house at Cossimbuzar and dismantled the fortifications, Captain Brohier has represented that it will cost the Company more money to repair that factory and purchase the houses round it for an esplanade than to build a compleat pentagon from the foundation on an open plain capable of resisting any force the country Government could bring against it; he has therefore recommended the obtaining a *perwannah* for building a factory on Birempore plain.

113. The Board being of opinion that a fortified place near the capital of the subahship would be of the inpreuning [improving?] our influence at the *darbar* and checking any designs that the Government might in future conceive against us, we wrote to Mr. Manningham who was then at Muxadavad to apply for a grant of Birempore plain and for a full *perwannah* to build a new factory and fortifye it as we thought proper. We have the pleasure to hear from Mr. Scrafton that a *sunnud* has passed the seal for four hundred *bigahs* of ground on Birempore plain, but we imagine it will not be possible for us to begin upon that factory till the citadel at Calcutta is finished or at least so forward as to admit of Captain Brohier's being sent to Cossimbuzar to oversee the works to be erected there.

114. As soon as ever Captain Brohier is able to lay before the Board an estimate of the expence which the citadel will cost, we shall not fail to advise Your Honors conformable to your orders; at present we believe it is not possible to compute any thing exactly.

115. The import duty ordered in Your Honors' commands of last year has been collected since the 1st May conformable to our determination on our return to the settlement. In order to prevent any abuses in the imposters, we think it would be proper to build a custom house with proper keys and warehouses for landing all merchandize imported by shipping into the settlement, which custom house would likewise be of use in collecting the export duty, as all other *gauts* might be put down. This we submit to your consideration and shall wait your orders thereon.

116. Enclosed in this packet we forward an account sale of the farms at outcry the twenty sixth of December amounting to current rupees 44164, exclusive of the *gunge* and *bazars* situated in Govindpore, which we have not sold having been obliged to remove them for the building of the citadel. The duties of those markets and of the *gunge* will be collected by the Zemindar on the Company's accounts.

117. When a survey is made of the lands granted the Company by the Nabob and we know the amount of it's revenue, we shall duely inform Your Honors of the particulars.

Sixthly, of factors, writers, officers and their accounts

118. The appointment of Messrs Pearkes, Batson and Billers to take charge of Patna factory, Your Honors have already been advised of, since which we have recalled Mr. Pearkes to his seat at the Board and have appointed Mr. Peter Amyatt Chief of that factory, as he had resided there before, and was best acquainted with the nature of the Company's business.

119. The station of our other servants will appear by the list transmitted in this packett to which we beg leave to be referred.

120. The office of Zemindar being of a very complicated nature, we regulated that post on the 14th April and divided it into four distinct branches viz., first, the Zemindar's office, which we confined to the collecting of the Company's revenues, ground rents, farms, *gunge* duty etc. Secondly, a clerk of the market who was to regulate the price of provisions and stamp the weights, measures etc. Thirdly, as *aridge duckle court*¹ for hearing and

determining of all disputes of meum and tuum between the natives before cognizable by the Zemindar, and lastly a *cutcherry* court for taking cognizance of matters and disputes of a criminal nature.

121. The last mentioned courts were to be composed of a member of the Board and five junior servants who were to sit three times a week at least and more if necessary for going through the business, and as it would require a very close attention for the head of the court, it was agreed the members of Council should take it in rotation. This method was practised for three months, but it being then found inconvenient as the fluctuating state of the office delayed the business and rendered the decisions tedious, it was by the majority of the Board fixed with the Zemindar, who was always to preside (or in his absence the Deputy Zemindar) at the head of those courts, in which manner the business is now carried on.

122. The following officers having requested leave to resign their commissions and return to Europe, we have permitted them to lay down the service, viz.,

Captain Andrew Armstrong
 Captain John Frazer
 Lieutenant George De Lubers
 Ensign Tottenham and
 Ensign Derdeyne.

123. Mr. John Bristow having behaved very assiduously and diligently in his post of Resident of Cuttack, we beg leave to recommend him to Your Honours' notice.

124. Ensign Penard's family being left in distressed circumstances and that officer having behaved extremely well in the defence of the settlement and lost his life at the siege, we have allowed his relict and child a pension of thirty (30) rupees per month. We have likewise allowed the widows of several serjeants, corporals and private men who were killed at the siege of the place a small monthly pension for their subsistence.

125. The Board having purchased a large *parick* of *cowries* at different times we have ordered the heads of all offices to indent to the Buxey for what they may want for the use of their respective offices.

126. Your Honours will observe by our consultation of the 4th July the Select Committee desired Mr. Manningham to proceed to Muxadavad to assist Collonel Clive and Mr. Watts in settling the mercantile affairs with the *darbar* and getting a completion of the treaty performed, from which office he returned the 31st October.

127. The Board having designed to settle the several subordinate factories with a Chief and council at each, conformable to the Company's orders, we wrote to Messrs Watts and Manningham to know if they chose the Chiefships of Cossimbuzar, Patna and Dacca. To which Mr. Watts replied the 23rd July and requested he might remain Chief of Cossimbuzar. We accordingly settled that factory but as the weight of business at the Board would not permit of the absence of so many of it's members as it would require to fill the Chiefships of the other subordinates, we defer'd the establishing of any other factory, till Your Honors' commands arrive in answer to our letters of last season.

128. Mr. Harry Verelst being stationed at Luckipore we have appointed Mr. George Gray junior Sub-Secretary in his room.

129. Major Killpatrick having declined the supravising of our powder mills and the making of that article, we gave the charge of that employ to Mr. John Macdonald with a salary of eight hundred (800) rupees per annum for his trouble.

130. The care of our company of artillery had been entrusted with Major Killpatrick since his arrival at Fultah till the 3rd October, when we established that company (at his recommendation) conformable to the regulation before sent us by Your Honours, and gave the charge of it to Captain John Francis Paschoud till we heard from Fort St. George if Captain Barker (the senior officer) was provided or not with a company on their coast.

131. Upon the arrival of Mr. Edward Barwell on the *Warwick* we sent for him and enquired of the treatment he met with from Captain Webb and were informed that he was used extremely well. We have stationed him in the export warehouse as they were in want of assistants.

132. There being a great want of servants for the mercantile business of the settlement, the Board ordered the Secretary on the 6th October to signifye to all the covenanted servants bearing commissions in the military, that their service was required in the civil way, and that we expected they should return to their civil duties till a further occasion called for their services in a military capacity. Messrs Rider and Johnstone on the 10th October addressed the Board upon that order, and after representing their reasons for entering into the military, desired they might be permitted to rank agreeable to the commissions they now bore in case of returning into the military. To which the Board having no objection if the rules of the army would admit of it, we ordered the Secretary to acquaint them we consented to their ranking agreeable to their requests.

133. Major Killpatrick departed this life of a fever on the 16th October about 9 o'clock at night.

134. A sett of gentlemen who have associated themselves for learning the manual exercise and the military discipline have addressed the Board for their permission to be commanded by their own officers, to whom they request we would grant distinct commissions as is practiced to the grenadier company in all regiments. Their letter lays before us for consideration, not being as yet satisfied if such commissions can be given by the Board.

135. Such of the officers of His Majesty's regiment as are returning to Europe having applied to us for an order to the commanders of the Europe ships to be received on board, we have directed the Secretary to acquaint Captains Braund, Webb and Macleod, that they must receive such officers and private men as chuse to embark on their respective ships as charterparty passengers and accommodate them with a passage to Europe in the best manner they are able.

136. We have promoted Mr. William Ellis to the degree of a captain of foot on our establishment and have given him a commission as such, in consideration of the misfortune he met with by losing his leg. He has our permission to return to Europe on the *Warwick*, and we beg leave to recommend him to Your Honors' favor and notice.

137. John Dommellan Esqre an officer in Collonel Adlercron's regiment having applied to remain in India in the Company's service if promoted to a company, and the private soldiers of the detachment belonging to the regiment who are in Bengall being backward to enlist in the service unless they were kept as a separate body and commanded by an officer of their own, we have given him a captain's commission. He has engaged about fifty of the private men to remain in India who have been advanced a hundred (100) *sunnaut* rupees each man.

Seventhly, touching accompts

138. Some gentlemen having paid money into the Company's treasury for bills of exchange to be forwarded by the *Delawar*, which bills were never signed on account of the troubles which immediately after followed, we judged it reasonable to grant them bills on Your Honors for the amount; some of those bills went home on the *Walpole*, Captain Fowler, but as we then omitted to mention the above circumstances we think it proper to advise Your Honors of it now.

139. Mr. Cruttenden being possessed of a bill of exchange on the Board drawn by the gentlemen at Dacca in the beginning of June 1756, which was not honored on account of the troubles at that time, and the loss of the settlement having prevented the payment of it when due, had applied for the amount at Fulta and was refused. Our reasons Your Honours will have seen entered on the face of our Fulta consultation. Some time after our return to Fort William, Mr. Cruttenden's attorney demanded payment again of the amount, being twelve hundred (1200) Arcot rupees, and informed the Board he was ordered to protest the bill in case of refusal; as we did not chuse to expose the Company's credit by suffering a bill for so trifling a sum to be protested, we accepted and discharged the principal sum without allowing any interest. We did the same for a bill of exchange drawn by John Howe Esq., Chief on Your Honours' island Negrais, in favor of Mr. Charles Manningham for two thousand (2000) Arcot rupees.

140. Those who had supplied the fort with military stores and provisions for the siege have been paid the amount of their bills for such supplies, as they were sent in for the Company's service, and by orders for the Governour and Council. The owners of the *Doddalay* have likewise been paid for the cotton landed from that ship by orders of the Board, in order of making her capable of acting offensively and defensively against the enemy. Our several opinions on that point Your Honours will find entered on the consultation of the 23rd May.

141. Several persons who were possessed of Company's interest notes before the loss of the settlement having lost those notes in the fort where they were deposited for security, applied to the Board for payment, or in lieu thereof a certificate signifying their knowledge of such bonds and that they were not discharged at the capture. We took their application into consideration and being sensible of the hardship it lay those people under, we have signed certificate to the following purport—That to the best of our knowledge such bonds were on ballance and not discharged between the dispatch of the *Denham* and the capture of the settlement; not doubting Your Honors will

relieve the unfortunate sufferers, by ordering their demands to be discharged, if it appears by the treasury account sent home to the dispatch of the *Denham* that those bonds have never been cancelled.

142. After our consultation of the 11th July is entered a particular account of goods and effects received at Dacca from the Nabob of that city on the Company's account, with an account of what was sold by the Government and what sent to Muxadavad. The gentlemen of that factory having addressed the Board concerning the moneys received by Mr. Watts account Dacca and desiring the orders of the Board if the whole should be advanced out of our treasury and the Company's ballance of money brought forward on their books as if no seizure had been made, or if only the private money should be paid and account current Calcutta debited for the Company's ballance, we ordered the whole of what Mr. Watts had received account that factory should be advanced, and the Company's ballance of cash at the seizure be brought forward on the new books.

143. Upon an information from the Select Committee that Collonel Clive had received account the Company thirty three laack and a third of *sicca* rupees, we took into consideration the large ballance of money there was likely to be in the treasury, which with the remittances we might expect from Bombay and the Coast, the sales of the Company's imports and the sums we should be under a necessity of granting bills for, would so much exceed our occasions that we thought it a very favourable opportunity to ease the Company of the heavy debt they owe at this Presidency. The Secretary was accordingly ordered to notify that no interest would be allowed or paid on any bonds after the first October and that all bonds tendered for payment would be discharged. But as this advertisement did not appear to answer the purpose fully, many bond holders choosing to let their money remain in the treasury without interest rather than cancel their bonds at so dangerous a juncture, we ordered the Secretary some time after to advertise that the risque of the principal sums of all bonds not tendered for payment before the first October was after that day to be on account of the proprietors of the bonds and the Company no way chargeable in case of any accident, a sum equal to the whole demand of the interest debt being lodged in the treasury for payment. How much of that debt has been reduced the state of Fort William (transmitted in this packet) will show.

144. We now send you the books of this Presidency commencing from the 1st Januari and ending the 30th April 1757, by which you will observe the difficulties we lay under for want of former books and papers lost in the capture of this place. The only guide we had was a journal closed in April 1755 which was found among the rubbish of the fort, greatly damaged; however we extracted from thence what accounts to the best of our memories might have remained on ballance at the close of April 1756, such as accounts at interest deposite and other outstanding accounts, leaving the adjustments till we can receive the copies of the treasury and cash accounts, warehouse accounts, *Buxey's*, Import Warehouse Storekeeper and Military Storekeeper's accounts, subordinate accounts etc., papers sent home in our dispatches for the year 1756. The reason why we have brought the interest accounts outstanding on our books, proceeded from the number of bonds tendered us for payment, and not knowing what sums might have been discharged before the

capture, we judged this to be the most eligible method ; as to the warehouse ballances we thought it needless to bring any thing more upon your books than what we found at our return, waiting as mentioned before for the different accounts from Your Honors. As for the number of accounts remaining on ballance from year to year, without much variation, we thought it proper to let them stand as before, as also the balances of the subordinates as they stood in April 1755 which we hope we shall be able to adjust properly as we receive accounts from them.

145. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar having desired our orders if the whole debt due from their *dadney* merchants shall remain upon their books, or if the sums collected by the late Nabob should be deducted, we have directed them to keep the ballances on their books in the same manner they stood before till Your Honors' pleasure is known and to endeavour to procure an exact account of the sum recovered by [from] those people by the late Nabob to be transmitted to Europe. We must request your orders therefore if the debt due to the Company at that factory must remain as it stood before, or if the sums recovered by Seraja Dowla should be deducted.

146. We shall prepare for the next ship a general account of the seizures made by Seraja Dowla and his officers at the Presidency and *aurungs* and what has been found in the fort or returned either in goods or money, that Your Honors may see at one view what loss the Company sustained by the capture of the settlement.

147. The fluctuating *batta* of *siccas* in the bazar being extremely inconvenient and attended with considerable loss to the Europeans, we have determined to settle it within our settlement to be current for a certain time at such a stated *batta*. The new *siccas* we have fixed at a *batta* of twenty per cent on current rupees and the rest in proportion as will appear in our consultation of the 31st October.

148. After advancing the navy and army the sum we have already mentioned, we find ourselves in want of money for the currency of our business and have therefore excepted [*sic*] of several sums tendered us to be lodged in the treasury for the Company's use upon our giving a receipt to repay it on a month's notice without interest.

149. The whole amount so received is rupees 487148-12-0 current and we flatter ourselves Your Honors will approve of this step, as our business would have been at an entire stop or we must have taken up money at interest.

150. We are now to advise Your Honors of the sums for which we have granted bills of exchange on the Company at two shillings and three pence (2s-3d) the current rupee, their respective sums being duely accounted for in the treasury.

Nine setts for rupees forty four thousand four hundred and forty four, seven annaes, three pice (44444-7-3) current each ; in all rupees four hundred thousand, one annae, three pice (400,000-1-3) current received of Mr. Henry Doidge, account the late Admiral Watson deceased, all payable to Charles Allix Esqre, the Reverend Doctor Thomas Green, Henry Speke and Henry Doidge Esqrs, is pounds sterling forty five thousand (45,000).

One sett for rupees three thousand one hundred and thirty one, five annas (3131-5-) current, received of Mr. Henry Doidge, account the estate of Admiral Watson deceased, payable to Charles Allix Esqr, the Reverend Doctor Thomas Green, Hery Speke and Henry Doidge Esqrs, is pounds sterling three hundred and fifty two, five shillings and six pence (352-5-6).

One sett for rupees four thousand and eighty five, fifteen annas (4085-15-) current, received of Roger Drake Junior Esqr being in part of two chests of coral imported per ship *East Court* 1755 marked LS No 29 and AL No 1 and one chest of amber beads per ship *Norfolk* 1754 marked IS No 27, payable to Jacob di Natal Levi Sonsino and Company, is pounds sterling four hundred and fifty nine, thirteen shillings and five pence (459-13-5).

One sett for rupees six hundred and forty five, four annas (645-4-) current received of Roger Drake Junr Esqr in part of one chest of false amber, payable to Davad de Castro, is pounds sterling seventy two, eleven shillings and nine pence (72-11-9).

One sett for rupees sixteen hundred and forty two, fifteen annas (1642-15-) current received of Roger Drake Junior Esqr. in part of one chest of coral marked [Mark 1]* N 3 per *Denham* 1754, payable to Moses Franco and Company is pounds sterling one hundred and eighty four, sixteen shillings and eight pence (184-16-8).

One sett for rupees two thousand two hundred and sixty seven, ten annas current (2267-10-) received of Roger Drake Junior Esqr. in part of one chest of coral marked B N. 3 per *Denham* 1754, payable to Abraham and Jacob Franco, is pounds sterling two hundred and fifty five, two shillings and a penny (255-2-1).

One sett for rupees fifty one thousand six hundred and ninety four, seven annas (51694-7-) current received of Roger Drake Junior Esqr. in part of two chests of coral imported per *Duke of Dorset* 1755 marked RB No. 14 and 15 and two chests of coral imported per *Eastcourt* marked RB No. 16 & 17 and eight chests of amber beads marked RB No. 3 & 4 per *Egmont* 1753, No. 5 per *Falmouth* 1753, No. 11 per *Norfolk* 1754, Nos. 14 & 16 per *York* 1754, No. 18 per *Duke of Dorset* 1755 & No. 19 per *Eastcourt* 1755, payable to Richard and William Barwell Esqrs., is pounds sterling five thousand eight hundred and fifteen, twelve shillings and six pence (5815-12-6).

One sett for rupees nine thousand three hundred and seventy eight, eleven annas (9378-11-) current received of Roger Drake and Charles Manningham Esqr. account coral beads two chests marked B. No. 5 & 7, one box emeralds B No. 6, ten casks and one box of bugles F N 1 to 11 imported per ships *Eastcourt* and *Duke of Dorset* 1755, payable to Messrs Abraham and Jacob Franco, is pounds sterling one thousand and fifty five, two shillings and a penny (1055-2-1).

One sett for rupees seven thousand seven hundred and twenty eight, thirteen annas and six pence (7728-13-6) current received of Roger Drake and Charles Manningham Esqrs. account coral beads marked [Mark 2]

* For the various marks used here and elsewhere refer to the plate facing p. 202.

N 1, 2 & 3 imported per ships *Eastcourt* and *Duke of Dorset* 1755, payable to Thomas Godfrey Esqr. is pounds sterling eight hundred and sixty nine, nine shillings and eleven pence (869-9-11).

One sett for rupees five thousand four hundred and sixty, three annaes, six pice (5460-3-6) current, received of Roger Drake and Charles Manningham Esqrs. account coral beads marked [Mark 3] N 2 & 3 imported per ship *Duke of Dorset* 1755, payable to Moses Franco & Company, is pounds sterling six hundred and fourteen, five shillings and six pence (614-5-6).

One sett for rupees four thousand eight hundred and sixty [seventy] six, seven annaes (4876-7-) current, received of Roger Drake and Charles Manningham Esqrs. in part proceeds of coral beads marked [Mark 4] N 1 & 2 imported per *Duke of Dorset* 1755, payable to Thomas Godfrey Esqr., is pounds sterling five hundred and forty eight, twelve shillings (548-12-).

One sett for rupees eleven hundred, eight annaes, three pice (1100-8-3) current received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland account one chest amber beads marked [Mark 5] N 6 payable to Mr. James Adams, is pounds sterling one hundred and twenty three, sixteen shillings, two pence (123-16-2).

One sett for rupees five thousand nine hundred and forty four, fourteen annaes, six pice (5944-14-6) current received of Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account coral beads marked [Mark 6] N. 14 and one chest marked [Mark 7] No. 1, per *Eastcourt* 1755, payable to Mr. Joseph Salvadore, is pounds sterling six hundred and forty eight, sixteen shillings (648-16-).

One sett for rupees twelve hundred and eighty six, nine pice (1286-0-9) current, received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland account coral beads one chest [Mark 8] No. 11 per *Eastcourt* 1755, payable to Mr. Judah Supino, is pounds sterling one hundred and forty four, thirteen shillings and seven pence (144-13-7).

One sett for rupees sixteen hundred and four, eight annaes, nine pice (1604-8-9) current received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland account coral beads one chest [Mark 9] No. 14 per *Eastcourt* 1755, imported by Mr. Moses Mendez da Costa deceased payable to Messrs Isaac Mendez da Costa and Nunes Brothers, is pounds sterling one hundred and eighty, ten shillings and three pence (180-10-3).

One sett for rupees sixteen hundred and seventy three, six annaes (1673-6) current received by Messrs Manningham and Frankland by order of Mr. Solomon Franco of Madrass account coral beads one chest [Mark 9] No. 5 per *True Briton* 1754 imported by Mr. Moses Mendez da Costa deceased payable to Messrs Isaac Mendez da Costa and Nunes Brothers, is pounds sterling one hundred and eighty eight, five shillings and a penny (188-5-1).

One sett for rupees two thousand two hundred and ninety seven, seven annaes, three pice (2297-7-3) current, received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland in part proceeds of coral beads [Mark 8] No. 11 per *Eastcourt* 1755, payable to Mr. Judah Supino, is pounds sterling two hundred and fifty eight, nine shillings and three pence (258-9-3).

One sett for rupees seventeen hundred and seventy, five annaes, three pice (1770-5-3) current received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland in full proceeds of one box of coral beads marked [Mark 10] No. 2 per ship *Warwick* 1755, payable to Mr. John Henry Mertins is pounds sterling one hundred and ninety nine, three shillings, three pence (199-3-3).

One sett for rupees forty seven thousand three hundred and sixty three, three annaes, nine pice (47363-3-9) current received of Mr. Henry Doidge, account the late Admiral Watson deceased, payable to Charles Allix Esqr., the Revd. Doctor Thomas Greene, Henry Speke and Henry Doidge Esqrs., is pounds sterling five thousand three hundred and twenty eight, seven shillings and three pence, (5328-7-3).

One sett for rupees twenty six thousand six hundred and sixty six, ten annaes, nine pice (26666-10-9) current, received of Edward Holden Cruttenden Esqr., payable to Edward Holden Cruttenden Esqr. or order, is pounds sterling three thousand (3000).

One sett for rupees eight thousand eight hundred and eighty eight, fourteen annaes, three pice (8888-14-3) current received of Mr. William Nixon, payable to Mr. William Nixon or order, is pounds sterling one thousand (1000).

One sett for rupees eight thousand one hundred and ninety nine, seven annaes (8199-7) current received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland account John Henry Mertins, payable to Mr. John Henry Mertins, is pounds sterling nine hundred and twenty two, eight shillings and nine pence (922-8-9).

One sett for rupees three thousand two hundred and forty five, six annaes, nine pice (3245-6-9) current received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland account Mrs. Rebecca Casamajor, payable to Mrs. Rebecca Casamajor, is pounds sterling three hundred and sixty five, two shillings and two pence (365-2-2).

One sett for rupees fourteen thousand five hundred and forty five, two annaes, three pice (14545-2-3) current received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland account Miss Emilia Moore, payable to John Gay Esqr. or order account Miss Emilia Moore, is pounds sterling sixteen hundred and thirty six, six shillings and seven pence (1636-6-7).

One sett for rupees three thousand three hundred and thirty eight, four annaes (3338-4-) current received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland account Stephen Law Esqr., payable to Stephen Law Esqr., is pounds sterling three hundred and seventy five, eleven shillings and a penny (375-11-1).

One sett for rupees five thousand eight hundred and sixty seven, four annaes (5867-4-) current received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland account Miss Eleanor Powney, payable to Miss Eleanor Powney, is pounds sterling six hundred and sixty, one shilling and four pence (660-1-4).

One sett for rupees three thousand one hundred and fifty three, four annaes, three pice (3153-4-3) current received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland account Miss Leonora Boys, payable to Miss Leonora Boys, is

pounds sterling three hundred and fifty four, fourteen shillings and ten pence (354-14-10).

One sett for rupees four thousand seven hundred and seventy, two annaes, nine pice (4770-2-9) current received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland account Miss Mary Houghton, payable to Miss Mary Houghton, is pounds sterling five hundred and thirty six, twelve shillings and eleven pence (536-12-11).

One sett for rupees fifty three thousand two hundred and eight, nine annaes, nine pice (53208-9-9) current received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland account Charles Floyer Esqr., payable to Charles Floyer Esqr., is pounds sterling five thousand nine hundred and eighty five, nineteen shillings and four pence (5985-19-4).

Once sett for rupees four thousand two hundred and six, eight annaes, six pice (4206-8-6) current received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland account John Hipwood, payable to Mr. John Hipwood, is pounds sterling four hundred and seventy three, four shillings and eight pence (473-4-8).

One sett for rupees twenty eight thousand eight hundred and fifty eight, three annaes, six pice (28858-3-6) current received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland account Mrs. Elizabeth Cockell, payable to Cornelius Goodwin Esqr. or order account Mrs. Elizabeth Cockell, is pounds sterling three thousand two hundred and forty six, eleven shillings (3246-11-).

One sett for rupees twenty five thousand and ninety four, thirteen annaes, nine pice (25094-13-9) current, received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland account G. Morten Pitt Craddock (infant), payable to Thomas Cooke Esqr., or order account G. Morten Pitt Craddock, is pounds sterling two thousand eight hundred and twenty three, three shillings, five pence (2823-3-5).

One set for rupees forty eight thousand three hundred and eight, one annae, three pice (48308-1-3) current received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland account James and Ellr. Barton infants, payable to Captain James Barton on account his children James and Ellr. Barton, is pounds sterling five thousand four hundred and thirty four, thirteen shillings and two pence (5434-13-2).

One sett for rupees six thousand five hundred and three, ten annaes, nine pice (6503-10-9) current received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland in trust for Miss Elizabeth Fytch infant, payable to Lawton Sullivan and Thomas Man Esqr., is pounds sterling seven hundred and thirty one, thirteen shillings and three pence (731-13-3).

One sett for rupees nine thousand eight hundred and forty one, nine annaes, six pice (9841-9-6) current received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland in trust for Mrs. Mackett and her daughter Ann Carteret, payable to Lawton Sullivan and Thomas Man Esqr., is pounds sterling eleven hundred and seven, three shillings and seven pence (1107-3-7).

One sett for rupees seventeen thousand nine hundred and forty one, seven annaes (17941-7-) current received of Messieurs Manningham and Frankland in trust for Mrs. Adriana Cecilia Pearkes, payable to Lawton

Sullivan and Thomas Man Esqr., is pounds sterling two thousand and eighteen, eight shillings and three pence (2018-8-3).

One sett for rupees fourteen thousand four hundred and eighty six, twelve annas (14486-12) current received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland account Louisa Barton, payable to Lawton Sullivan in trust for Louisa Barton, is pounds sterling sixteen hundred and twenty nine, fifteen shillings and two pence (1629-15-2).

One sett for rupees forty five thousand two hundred and twenty three, six annas, nine pice (45223-6-9) current received of Messrs. Manningham and Frankland account Mrs. Ann Mandeville and her daughter Ann Halsey and the estate of.....Burrow Esqr. deceased, payable to Cornelius Goodwin and Nathaniel Neal Esqrs., is pounds sterling five thousand and eighty seven, twelve shillings and eight pence (5087-12-8).

One sett for rupees thirty four thousand and fourteen, fourteen annas, three pice (34014-14-3) current received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland by order of Mrs. Lucia Mac Guire account the estate of William Fytch Esqr. deceased, payable to Thomas Fytch Esqr., is pounds sterling three thousand eight hundred and twenty six, thirteen shillings and six pence (3826-13-6).

One sett for rupees two thousand three hundred and thirty seven, nine annas, nine pice (2337-9-9) current received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland by order of Mrs. Lucia Mac Guire account Elizabeth Fytch infant, payable to Thomas Fytch Esqr. is pounds sterling two hundred and sixty two, nineteen shillings and seven pence (262-19-7).

One sett for rupees nineteen thousand three hundred and fifty eight, twelve annas, three pice (19358-12-3) current received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland by order of William Perceval Esqr. account Mrs. Rebecca Hunter, payable to Mrs. Rebecca Hunter, is pounds sterling two thousand one hundred and seventy seven, seventeen shillings and three pence (2177-17-3).

One sett for rupees nineteen thousand five hundred and twelve, thirteen annas, six pice (19512-13-6) current received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland by order of William Perceval Esqr. account the estate of Richard Torriano deceased, payable to Richard Benyon Esqr., is pounds sterling two thousand one hundred and ninety five, three shillings and eleven pence (2195-3-11).

One sett for rupees twenty thousand seven hundred and fifty four, fourteen annas, nine pice (20754-14-9) current received of Messrs Manningham, Frankland and Holme account the estate of Lady Russell deceased, payable to Frederick Frankland Esqr. and Sir William Russell Bart, is pounds sterling two thousand three hundred and thirty four, eighteen shillings and seven pence (2334-18-7).

One sett for rupees eleven thousand four hundred and ninety one, two annas, three pice (11491-2-3) current received of William Watts, Charles Manningham Esqrs. account of Miss Elizabeth Glen, payable to Archibald Sterling Esqr. account of Miss Elizabeth Glen, is pounds sterling twelve hundred and ninety two, fifteen shillings and a penny (1292-15-1).

One sett for rupees twenty three thousand one hundred and thirty nine, eight annaes, six pice (23139-8-6) current received of William Watts and Charles Manningham Esqrs. account the estate of Andrew Glen, payable to Archibald Sterling Esqr. account the estate of Capt. Andrew Glen deceased, is pounds sterling two thousand six hundred and three, three shillings and eleven pence (2603-3-11).

One sett for rupees thirty seven thousand nine hundred ninety five, six annaes (37995-6-0) current received of Charles Manningham Esqr. account Richard Eyre Esqr., payable to Richard Eyre Esqr., is pounds sterling four thousand two hundred and seventy four, nine shillings and seven pence (4274-9-7).

One sett for rupees two thousand and seventy seven, one annae, nine pice (2077-1-9) current received of Charles Manningham Esqr. account William Campbell, payable to Mr. William Campbell, is pounds sterling two hundred and thirty three, thirteen shillings and six pence (233-13-6).

One sett for current rupees thirty two thousand four hundred and fourteen, seven annaes, six pice (32414-7-6) received of Charles Manningham and William Fullerton Esqrs. account Captn. Thomas Nairne, payable to Captain Thomas Nairne, is pounds sterling three thousand six hundred and forty six, twelve shillings and seven pence (3646-12-7).

One sett for rupees twenty thousand (20,000) current, received of Charles Manningham in trust for Frances Watts and her daughter Frances Templer, payable to Lawton Sullivan and Thomas Manningham Esqrs., is pounds sterling two thousand two hundred and fifty (2250).

One sett for rupees six hundred and fifty seven, ten annaes (657-10) current received of Roger Drake Junior Esqr. being the produce of a chest of coral marked [Mark 11] No. 1 imported per ship *Walpole* 1756, payable to David da Costa or order, is pounds sterling seventy three, nineteen shillings and eight pence (73-19-8).

One sett for rupees seventeen hundred and twenty eight (1728) current received of Roger Drake Junior Esqr. being the produce of a chest of coral marked IN No. 27 imported per ship *Walpole* 1756, payable to Benjamin Mendez da Costa or order, is pounds sterling a hundred and ninety four, eight shillings (194-8).

One sett for rupees twenty thousand four hundred and eighty two, fifteen annaes, three pice (22482-15-3) current received of Edward Holden Cruttenden account William Holcombe Esqr., payable to Edward Holden Cruttenden Esqr., is pounds sterling two thousand five hundred and twenty nine, six shillings and eight pence (2529-6-8).

One sett for rupees seventeen thousand seven hundred and twenty one (17721) current received of Mr. George Gray account the annuities and bequeaths of Captn William West deceased, payable to Henry Allen Esqr., is pounds sterling nineteen hundred and ninety three, twelve shillings and three pence (1993-12-3).

One sett for rupees fifteen thousand five hundred and fifty five, eight annaes, nine pice (15555-8-9) current received of Mr. William Nixon account Mrs. Ann Barlow payable to Mr. William Nixon, is pounds sterling seventeen hundred and fifty (1750).

One sett for rupees five thousand two hundred and twenty two, three annaes, three pice (5222-3-3) current received of Mr. William Nixon account Miss Sophia Barlow, payable to Mr. William Nixon, is pounds sterling five hundred and eighty seven, ten shillings (587-10).

One sett for rupees two thousand eight hundred and eighty eight, fourteen annaes (2888-14) current received of Mr. William Nixon account Mr. Edward Cole, payable to Mr. William Nixon, is pounds sterling three hundred and twenty five (325).

One sett for rupees four thousand four hundred and forty four, seven annaes (4444-7) current received of Mr. William Nixon account Mr. Richard Wyatt, payable to Mr. William Nixon, is pounds sterling five hundred (500).

One sett for rupees fifty three thousand three hundred and thirty three, five annaes, six pice (53333-5-6) current received of Mr. William Nixon account Mr. John Goddard, payable to Mr. William Nixon, is pounds sterling six thousand (6000).

One sett for rupees two thousand five hundred and fifty three, twelve annaes (2553-12) current received of Mr. William Nixon account Mr. Bartholomew Plaisted, payable to Mr. William Nixon, is pounds sterling two hundred and eighty seven, five shillings and eleven pence (287-5-11).

One sett for rupees three thousand one hundred and eleven, one annae, nine pice (3111-1-9) current received of Mr. William Nixon account Mrs. Martha Mastries, payable to Mr. William Nixon, is pounds sterling three hundred and fifty (350).

One sett for rupees four thousand six hundred and sixty six, ten annaes, six pice (4666-10-6) current received of Mr. William Nixon account Mrs. Martha Mastries, payable to Mr. William Nixon, is pounds sterling five hundred and twenty five (525).

One sett for rupees six thousand nine hundred and fifteen, one annae, three pice (6915-1-3) current received of Mr. William Nixon account Mrs. Martha Mastries, payable to Mr. William Nixon, is pounds sterling seven hundred and seventy seven, eighteen shillings and ten pence (777-18-10).

One sett for rupees eight thousand eight hundred and eighty eight, fourteen annaes, three pice (8888-14-3) current received of Mr. Robert Baillie account the estate of William Baillie Esqr. deceased, payable to Mr. Robert Baillie, is pounds sterling one thousand (1000).

One sett for rupees one hundred and seventeen thousand five hundred and thirty-seven, eight annaes, nine pice (117537-8-9) current received of Messrs Peter Amyatt and William Fullerton, payable to William Barwell Esqr., is pounds sterling thirteen thousand two hundred and twenty two, nineteen shillings and six pence (13222-19-6).

One sett for rupees thirty five thousand five hundred and fifty five, nine annaes (35555-9) current received of Mr. William Ellis, payable to Thomas Phipps Esqr., is pounds sterling four thousand (4000).

One sett for rupees twenty nine thousand five hundred and ninety eight, nine pice (29598-0-9) current received of Mr. Beaumont being the produce of coral beads two chests marked AB No. 1 and 3 per *Duke of*

Dorset and Delawar and two chests marked GCB per *Chesterfield*, payable to Thomas Waters Esqr., is pounds sterling three thousand three hundred and twenty nine, fifteen shillings and seven pence (3329-15-7).

One sett for rupees four thousand and two, ten annaes (4002-10) current received of Mr. John Walsh, payable to Mr. Joseph Fowke, is pounds sterling four hundred and fifty, five shillings and ten pence (450-5-10).

One sett for rupees twelve hundred and twelve, ten annaes, six pice (1212-10-6) current received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland, payable to Messrs Moses and Raphael Franco account Solomon Franco of Madrass, is pounds sterling one hundred and thirty six, eight shillings and six pence (136-8-6).

The whole amount of bills for which we have drawn upon Your Honors by this ship, is rupees fourteen laack forty seven thousand four hundred and seventy two, five annaes (1447472-5) current or pounds sterling one hundred and sixty two thousand eight hundred and forty, twelve shillings and eight pence (162840-12-8).

151. Your Honors will observe by the course of our consultations that we have been in some measure necessitated to draw upon the Company for the large amount we have done by this ship. By the *Diligent* schooner we limited our draughts to the account sales of coral, amber beads etc., and small sums for necessaries; at the same time we foresaw there would be a large amount tendered for bills of exchange on the Company by the December dispatch, and accordingly apprised Your Honors of it, and that we should make our bills payable a year after sight. Upon reconsidering this affair and consulting with the gentlemen at Muxadavad, we were of opinion that too large a sum drawn for by us might prejudice the Company even though the bills were not payable till a twelve month after sight. We altered our resolution therefor and upon an application of Captn Duncan's for bills for Mr. Walsh his money, we debated how far it would be proper to grant bills for and who were entitled to a preference. The President thought it should be confined to the sales of coral, amber beads etc., Company's bonds, the property of Europeans, deceased person estates, debts due from the inhabitants of this settlement in England and necessaries; but the majority of the Board being of opinion that the amount we intended to draw for should be equally divided if possible among the several persons who wanted bills, the Secretary was ordered to advertise that every body should acquaint the Sub-Acomptant of the sum for which they should want bills for the season. This account was soon after layed before us, but the sum it amounted to being near sixty lack (6,000,000) of rupees, the Board determined, upon debating the affair, to grant bills for the sales of coral only till Mr. Manningham returned from Muxadavad and there was a full Council to resolve upon so important a matter.

152. Accordingly the 31st October the debate was resumed in a full Council at which Collonel Clive was present and it being long argued whether making so large a draught upon Your Honors might not be attended with bad consequences, especially as there had been little or no investment sent home last year and as the goods forwarded this season would not be equal to the bills we should draw for, it was judged more prudent to draw bills for only

a part of what was offered. The next thing to be determined was how to divide the sum we intended to draw for or who were intitled to a preference. The President having put the question whether it would not be reasonable to grant bills for the amount sales of coral and amber beads, both what has been imported since the retaking the settlement and what was lost in the place, for the amount of bonds the property of people in England, many of whom depend upon the Company's interest annually remitted them for their subsistence, and for the amount of debts due from the inhabitants of the settlement in England, the opinion of the majority was that bills should be given for the sales of coral, amber beads etc., and for Company's bonds the property of people in England; the Accomptant was accordingly ordered to make out bills for no other monies. But Mr. Cruttenden having applied for a trifle in order to support himself in England till the bulk of his fortune could be remitted home, we have allowed him bills for three thousand (3000) pounds in consideration of the hardship of his case; we have indulged Captain William Ellis likewise with four thousand (4000) pounds and Mr. William Nixon with one thousand (1000) pounds all which we could not well refuse.

153. The obligations which the Company were under to the late Vice-Admiral Watson induced us to admit of the amount of his estate being remitted by bills on Your Honors.

154. From the account we have given of our transactions relating to making draughts on the Company, Your Honors will find we did our utmost to prevent too great a sum being drawn for by this ship and that what bills have been given could not well be avoided; by the *Warwick* we propose for a further sum, many applications having been made to the Board by people who are in want of necessaries from England, or owe money there; but Your Honors may depend upon it, we shall not give bills to any considerable amount by the other dispatches of this season.

155. We have granted Captain Macleod three certificates of one tenor and date of rupees twenty six thousand six hundred and sixty six, ten annas (26666-10) current, or pounds sterling three thousand (3000) being for the part produce of his outward bound adventure and profits thereon.

Supplement

156. We have omitted to mention that upon weighing off the copper sent us on the *Marlborough* by the President and Council of Fort St. George, it turned out extremely short in weight; upon demanding the amount of the deficiency from Captain Macleod, he assured us that there was no other copper but the Company's on the ship, that he had never seen it weighed and had delivered right in tale. Upon this representation we have referred the adjustment of it to Your Honors, the more as there was a large deficiency likewise in the copper received per *Protector* so that we apprehend it must be owing to the different manner of weighing it off at Fort St. George and at this place.

157. One pipe of Madeira per *Warwick* was landed empty, and as it did not appear to be owing to any bad stowage or other mismanagement of the commander or officers of that ship, we have not demanded the amount from Captain Webb.

158. The Select Committee having applied to the Board for their opinion concerning Chanderanagore, as Admiral Watson had left it to them to demolish the place or garrison it for the Company as they thought proper, we were unanimous in opinion that the rents and revenues of that place (after paying the Government the sum usually paid by the French Company which had been promised) would be no equivalent for the expence of maintaining it, and as it is probable in case of a peace we should be obliged to restore it to the French if in our possession, we judged it more politick to dismantle the fortifications and deliver up the town to the Nabob who is under an engagement to hinder their settling again in these provinces. In consequence of this opinion the bastions of Fort D'Orleans have been blown up, and the curtains levelled. When the demolition of the works are finished we shall make a tendre of the place to the Nabob.

159. Mr. John Pyc, a free merchant, having desired our permission to return to Europe and the Secretary being ordered to demand the ninety six (96) rupees, usually paid into the treasury by persons going home, he has informed us that he paid that sum in England to Your Honors, in consequence of which information we refer it home to be adjusted by you.

160. Captain Macleod on the 12th September laid before us a list of arms and accoutrements he supplied this settlement with when Seraja Dowla marched against it in February 1756, which we ordered the Military Storekeeper to return, but there being a scarcity of arms in our stores, we have been obliged to countermand those orders and refer Captain Macleod to Your Honours to be paid for them in England. Enclosed in the packet we forward an account of the arms received from him, as likewise an account of what he supplied Vizagapatam with.

161. Upon receiving the first payment of the Nabob's donation, account the European sufferers, we called the inhabitants together and desired they would make choice of thirteen persons to examine and establish the losses of every sufferer according to the best of their judgment. The inhabitants having requested we would appoint thirteen persons for that business, whose determination they would abide by, we had an instrument signed by the Europeans for themselves and their constituents empowering us to appoint thirteen persons to examine and settle the demands of every sufferer whose determination they bound themselves to abide by. Upon which instrument being executed, we commissioned thirteen of the principal inhabitants to examine and adjust the estimates of European sufferers by the capture of the place June 1756. They sat accordingly for several weeks and on the 13th October delivered in an abstract of the principal sums which they had established for every sufferer whose estimates had been delivered in. That abstract is entered after our consultation of the aforesaid day, and the sum received from the Nabob admitting of a dividend of ten (10) annas in the rupee, we ordered the commissioners to make out such a dividend, which was layed before us on the 24th October and the Committee of Treasury ordered to discharge each person's demand.

162. Your Honours will observe we have advanced the sufferers out of the treasury the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand (250,000) rupees to make up a sufficient sum for the above mentioned dividend &c. we shall

reimburse the Company out of the first future payment that we may receive of the Nabob.

163. Mr. Charles Manningham having been absent the greatest part of the time in which the occurrences recited in this letter happened, desires leave to observe that circumstance to Your Honors and that he only signs to such transactions as he was present at.

164. The consultations would have been forwarded to the day of the dispatch but that Mr. John Smith, who is engrossing them fair, was some time ago taken extremely ill; continued a long while incapable of writing. They are only brought up to the 31st October. The remainder of his sett shall be sent home per *Warwick*.

165. On this ship we have laden sundry goods and merchandize consigned to Your Honours as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed amounting to current rupees eight hundred and seventy eight thousand five hundred (878500).

166. We have likewise consigned the Governor and Council of St. Helena sundry stores for the use of that island amounting to current rupees nine hundred and sixty seven, four annas, nine pies (967-4-9).

167. In this packet you will receive five *sicca* rupees and three *fooley* mohurs coined in our mint which we send for Your Honors' inspection.

168. Mr. William Mackett, who dispatches this ship from Ingellie, will advise Your Honours of what else is necessary from thence.

169. We wish her a safe and speedy passage and are with the greatest respect,

May it please Your Honours,
Your most faithful humble servants,

Roger Drake Junr. / C. Manningham / Richd. Beecher / W. Frankland / M. Collet / W. Mackett.

Fort William, 10th January 1758.

LETTER DATED 13 JANUARY 1758¹

News respecting the suppression of rebellion in Purnea repeated—Clive and Mir Jafar ready to march against Ramnarayan in Patna—Company's insistence that Mir Jafar implement the terms of the treaty—Frankland appointed as Surveyor of villages assigned by Mir Jafar—Col. Forde succeeds Kilpatrick.

TO the Honorable the Secret Committee for Affairs of the Hon'ble the United East India Company.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. Duplicate of our advices under date the 20th August is forwarded herewith. We have but little to add to our general advices sent *via* Bombay and

Madrass and per *Diligent* schooner. By a sett of our proceedings forwarded in the box of books you will observe the intelligence we have from time to time received and our motions in consequence thereof. The rebellion at Poornea is entirely suppressed and the principal of the rebels taken prisoners. There seems likewise to be no apprehensions remaining of disturbances from the northward. The Nabob is in the field at the head of his army and Collonel Clive with our troops has joined him, but we do not imagine there will be any reason for him to march further than where they are to stop in their way to Patna, in hopes of reconciling the Nabob and Ramnarrain, *naib* of that city. As Admiral Pocock with his squadron are on their departure we have wrote to Collonel Clive that we think it would be imprudent to keep the troops at too great a distance from Calcutta, especially as our garrison is so weak that it would not be possible for us to resist even so small a force, when the squadron leaves the river. We have desired them, therefore, to return to Calcutta or Cossimbuzar at least as soon as circumstances will admit of it without prejudice to the Nabob's affairs.

2. The Nobob's affairs having necessitated him to demand the assistance of our troops, we thought it a favorable conjuncture to insist on the completion of the treaty and accordingly desired Collonel Clive to make use of the opportunity by refusing to march till the grants of the lands were passed the seals, and security given for the payment of the ballance due account the treaty. We have the pleasure to inform you that a *sunmud* for the lands is arrived and that the ballance of the first moiety is paid in full, that part of what is due will be paid in money and that the revenues of some considerable countrys will be mortgaged for the rest.

3. Our influence at the *darbar* remains as great as ever but it will be impossible to preserve it unless the Company do in future keep up a very respectable body of Europeans in this country; their acquisitions in these provinces are now become so important, and the preservation of them of so much consequence that their utmost efforts should be used to supply this Presidency with a considerable body of well disciplined men and a proper number of recruits annually sent out to fill up the decrease which casualties will occasion. This season has been so extremely sickly that the number of our Europeans are reduced to 4 or 500 rank and files, a force so small that we are very apprehensive of what may happen, should the French arrive in the river, after the squadron are gone, with any considerable body of troops, especially as our works are in no forwardness.

4. We have appointed Mr. William Frankland to make a survey of the lands given us by the treaty, to enquire into the nature and extent of our revenues, what number of *purgunnahs*, villages and inhabitants are within the boundaries and what improvements may be made for the increase of the rents now collected. When this is reported to us we shall then determine in what manner to proceed and establish it on the best foundation for the interest of our employers.

5. The *Fanny* snow delivered over to us by John Andrews Esqr., is sent to Achin to get intelligence if the French fleet which appeared upon the Coast in September is any where to the eastward. If Captain Hague hears nothing of them at Achin he is to touch at Salingore, Queda, Mergi and Ne raise for

intelligence. The Admiral has dispatched the *Bridgwater* on the same errand, but from the letter received from the Coast there is reason to hope the enemy's squadron is returned to the island.

6. By the *Boscawen* the Select Committee of Fort St. George have advised us of the arrival of the *Queenborough* man of war at their Presidency. She left Commodore Stevens with his squadron at Madagascar the beginning of August. Private letters from Bombay advise us of their arrival there in October.

7. Upon the death of Major Killpatrick we wrote to Lieutenant Collonel Ford² of His Majesty's regiment to come to the Bay and take the charge of our garrison with the command of the troops, in case Collonel Clive returns to the Coast but we are apprehensive that letter will not reach him as we hear he was to embark on one of the ships under dispatch for Europe from Madrass.

8. In the Company's general packet is transmitted a letter we received from the Select Committee of Fort St. George under your address.

9. We have just received advice that the *Queenborough* man of war and two of the Coast and Bay ships are in Ballasore road.

We are with the greatest respect,

Hon'ble Sirs,

Your most faithful and obedient humble servants,

Roger Drake Junr. / C. Manningham / Richd. Becher.

Fort William, 13th January 1758.

LETTER DATED 13 JANUARY 1758

Acknowledgement of the receipt of letters from Court—Report of safe arrival of ships.

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours,

Since closing our letter under the established heads, the *Elizabeth* and *Grantham* have imported; by them we are favored with your commands of the 25th March and a letter from the Honorable Secret Committee dated the 28th April. The directions and orders therein shall be observed punctually and by the next opportunity we shall reply to such parts of your letter as require an answer.

These ships put in at the Brazils in company with the *Worcester*, *Ilchester* and *Fox* and were separated from them on the 2nd October by a gale of wind.

We congratulate Your Honours on the safe arrival of these ships and are with the greatest respect.

May it please Your Honours,

Your most faithful humble servants,

Roger Drake Junr. / C. Manningham / Richd. Becher / W. Frankland / M. Collet.

Fort William, 13th January 1758

LETTER DATED 21 JANUARY 1758¹

Particulars of bills of exchange.

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours,

1. Conformable to what we wrote you in our letter of the 10th instant, the *Warwick*, captain—Nicholas Webb, is now dispatched to Fort St. George with two hundred (200) tons of saltpetre and four hundred (400) chests and bales of goods for Europe, invoice and bill of lading for which we enclose Your Honours amounting to rupees six hundred and twenty seven thousand three hundred (627300) current.

2. Captain Webb's letters and requests with the Master Attendant's report survey of the *Warwick* and all other papers relating to this ship are likewise enclosed in this packet.

3. We have nothing to add by this dispatch to our letter under the established heads but to advise of the several sums for which we have granted bills on Your Honours since the close of the above mentioned letter at two shillings and three pence (2-3) each current rupee, the amounts of each being regularly accounted for in the treasury.

One sett for rupees twelve thousand two hundred and forty seven, four annas (12247-4-0) current received of Roger Drake Junr. Esqr, payable to William Barwell Esqr, is pounds sterling thirteen hundred and seventy seven, sixteen shillings and three pence (1377-16-3).

One sett for rupees twenty one thousand three hundred and fifty (21350) current received of Roger Drake Junr. Esqr., payable to Daniel Lacelles Esqr., is pounds sterling two thousand four hundred and one, seventeen shillings and six pence (2401-17-6).

One sett for rupees nineteen thousand six hundred and thirty four, eight annas (19634-8) current received of Roger Drake Junr. Esqr., payable to Robert Goodeve Esqr., is pounds sterling two thousand two hundred and eight, seventeen shillings and seven pence (2208-17-7).

One sett for rupees eight thousand (8000) current received of Richard Becher Esqr., payable to Messrs Nettleton and Raikes, is pounds sterling nine hundred (900).

One sett for rupees four hundred and forty four, seven annaes (444-7) current received of Mr. Richard Court, payable to William Frazer Esqr., is pounds sterling fifty (50).

One sett for rupees nineteen thousand one hundred and twenty eight, twelve annaes, nine pice (19128-12-9) current received of Mr. Anselm Beaumont account proceeds of three chests of coral marked G.C.B. No. 2.3 and 6 per *Chesterfield*, payable to Thomas Waters Esqr., is pounds sterling two thousand one hundred and fifty one, nineteen shillings and nine pence (2151-19-9).

One sett for rupees twenty six thousand six hundred and sixty six, ten annaes, nine pice (26666-10-9) current received of Mathew Collet Esqr., payable to Mr. James Holcomb, is pounds sterling three thousand (3000).

One sett for rupees nineteen thousand seven hundred and sixty two, thirteen annaes, nine pice (19762-13-9) current received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland account William Wogan Junr., payable to William Wogan Junr. Esqr., is pounds sterling two thousand two hundred and twenty three, six shillings and five pence (2223-6-5).

One sett for rupees nineteen thousand five hundred and twenty nine, five annaes, three pice (19529-5-3) current received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland account Robert Goodeve Esqr., payable to Robert Goodeve Esqr., is pounds sterling two thousand one hundred and ninety seven, one shilling (2197-1):

One sett for rupees thirty thousand six hundred and sixty two, ten annaes (30662-10) current received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland account Captain Philip Jodderel, payable to Captain Philip Jodderel, is pounds sterling three thousand four hundred and forty nine, ten shillings and eleven pence (3449-10-11).

One sett for rupees nine hundred and sixty two, eight annaes (962-8) current received of Messrs Manningham and Frankland account estate of William James Harrod deceased, payable to Robert James Esqr. or order account the said estate, is pounds sterling a hundred and eight, five shillings and seven pence (108-5-7).

One sett for rupees nineteen thousand three hundred and ninety two, six annaes (19392-6) current received of Richard Becher Esquire, payable to Messrs Nettleton and Raikes, is pounds sterling two thousand one hundred and eighty one, twelve annaes, [sic] ten pice [sic] (2181-12-10).

One sett for rupees eight thousand one hundred and sixty three, three annaes, three pice (8163-3-3) current, received of Richd. Becher Esqr. account John Sampson, payable to Captain John Sampson or Captain John Hallet, is pounds sterling nine hundred and eighteen, seven shillings and two pence (918-7-2).

One sett for rupees thirty three thousand three hundred and thirty three, five annaes, six pice (33333-5-6) current received of Mr. George Clive, payable to Captain Archibald Grant, is pounds sterling three thousand seven hundred and fifty (3750).

One sett for rupees six thousand six hundred and sixty six, ten annaes, nine pice (6666-10-9) current received of Mr. George Clive, payable to Lieutenant John Coincille, is pounds sterling seven hundred and fifty (750).

One sett for rupees twelve thousand three hundred and thirty three, five annas, three pice (12333-5-3) current received of Lieutenant John Power, payable to Lieutenant John Power, is pounds sterling thirteen hundred and eighty seven, ten shillings (1387-10).

One sett for rupees eight thousand (8000) current received of Ensign Martin Yorke, payable to Ensign Martin Yorke, is pounds sterling nine hundred (900).

One sett for rupees four thousand (4000) current received of Ensign William Blair, payable to Ensign William Blair, is pounds sterling four hundred and fifty (450).

One sett for rupees four thousand (4000) current received of Ensign Bartholomew Balfour, payable to Ensign Bartholomew Balfour, is pounds sterling four hundred and fifty (450).

One sett for rupees ten thousand one hundred and fifty eight, thirteen annas, three pice (10158-13-3) current received of Charles Manningham Esqr. account Captain Nicholas Weller, payable to Captain Nicholas Weller, is pounds sterling eleven hundred and forty two, seventeen shillings and four pence (1142-17-4).

One sett for rupees four thousand one hundred and fifty nine, ten annas, nine pice (4159-10-9) current received of Lieutenant Joseph Adnett, payable to Captain Nicholas Weller, is pounds sterling four hundred and sixty seven, nineteen shillings and three pence (467-19-3).

One sett for rupees eight thousand eight hundred and eighty eight, fourteen annas, three pice (8888-14-3) current received of Captain Thomas Townsend, payable to Captain Thomas Townsend, is pounds sterling one thousand (1000).

One sett for rupees fifty three thousand three hundred and thirty three, five annas, six pice (53333-5-6) current received of Robert Clive Esqr., payable to the Hon'ble Sir Edward Clive Knt., William Belitine, Richard Clive, and William Smyth King Esqrs., is pounds sterling six thousand (6000).

One sett for rupees eight thousand eight hundred and eighty eight, fourteen annas, three pice (8888-14-3) current received of Matthew Collet Esqr., payable to Messrs Nettleton and Raikes, is pounds sterling one thousand (1000).

One sett for rupees eight thousand eight hundred and eighty eight, fourteen annas, three pice (8888-14-3) current received of Mr. John Cooke, payable to William Davis and John Zephaniah Holwell Esqrs. or either of their orders, is pounds sterling a thousand (1000).

One sett for rupees five thousand nine hundred and sixty five, eight annas, nine pice (5965-8-9) current received of Roger Drake, Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqrs. in part proceeds of a chest of coral beads marked [Mark 1] No. 4 per *Chesterfield* 1756, payable to Moses and Raphael Franco, is pounds sterling six hundred and seventy one, two shillings and six pence (671-2-6).

One sett for rupees four thousand four hundred and forty four, seven annas (4444-7) current received of Richard Becher and Thomas

Boddam Esqrs. account Paul Richard Pearkes Esqr., payable to William Franco Esqr., is pounds sterling five hundred (500).

One sett for rupees thirty five thousand five hundred and fifty five, nine annaes (35555-9) current received of Thomas Boddam Esqr., payable to William Belchier and Company, is pounds sterling four thousand (4000).

One sett for rupees fifty three thousand three hundred and thirty three, five annaes, six pice (53333-5-6) current received of William Watts Esqr., payable to Messrs Gosling and Benet, is pounds sterling six thousand (6000).

One sett for rupees thirty five thousand five hundred and fifty five, nine annaes (35555-9) current received of Peter Amyatt Esqr., payable to Messrs Gosling and Benet, is pounds sterling four thousand (4000).

One sett for rupees six thousand nine hundred and thirty six, five annaes, nine pice (6936-5-9) current received of Mr. Samuel Barnes, payable to Messrs Samuel Barnes and Edward Ives or either of their orders, is pounds sterling seven hundred and eighty, six shillings and nine pence (780-6-9).

One sett for rupees eight thousand eight hundred and eighty eight, fourteen annaes, three pice (8888-14-3) current received of Lieutt. Matthew Peerson, payable to Francis Peerson Esqr., is pounds sterling one thousand (1000).

One sett for rupees thirteen thousand three hundred and thirty three, five annaes, three pice (13333-5-3) current received of Roger Drake Junr. Esqr., payable to Roger Drake and Beeston Long Esqrs., is pounds sterling fifteen hundred (1500).

One sett for rupees thirty three thousand three hundred and thirty three, five annaes, six pice (33333-5-6) current received of Captain Eyre Coote, payable to Captain Eyre Coote and James Barnd [Baird?] Esqr. or either of their orders, is pounds sterling three thousand seven hundred and fifty (3750).

One sett for rupees three thousand six hundred and fifty, twelve annaes, nine pice (3650-12-9) current received of Mr. Anselm Beaumont being the proceeds of two chests of coral beads marked A.B. N 3 & 7 imported at Madras per ship *York*, payable to Thomas Waters Esqr., is pounds sterling four hundred and ten, fourteen shillings and four pence (410-14-4).

One sett for rupees seven thousand seven hundred and thirty four, three annaes, six pice (7734-3-6) current received of Messieurs Manningham and Frankland for nett proceeds of two chests of coral beads IS No. 1 & 2 per ship *Delawar* 1756, payable to Mr. Joseph Salvatore, is pounds sterling eight hundred and seventy, two shillings (870-2).

One sett for rupees eight thousand eight hundred and eighty eight, fourteen annaes, three pice (8888-14-3) current received of Mr. Charles Pater, payable to Mr. Charles Pater, is pounds sterling one thousand (1000).

One sett for rupees thirteen hundred and thirty three, five annaes, three pice (1333-5-3) current received of Mrs. Sarah Mapletoft, payable

to Humphrey Bellamy Esqr., is pounds sterling a hundred and fifty (150).

One sett for rupees eight hundred and eighty eight, fourteen annaes, three pice (888-14-3) received of Mrs. Sarah Mapletoft, payable to Mr. Peter Taylor, is pounds sterling one hundred (100).

One sett for rupees four hundred (400) current received of Mr. Charles O'Hara, payable to Mrs. Elizabeth Howitt account said Charles O'Hara, is pounds sterling forty five (45).

Four setts for rupees eight thousand eight hundred and eighty eight, fourteen annaes, three pice (8888-14-3) current each, in all rupees thirty five thousand five hundred and fifty five, nine annaes (35555-9) current received of Henry Speke Esqr., payable to Henry Speke Esqr., is pounds sterling four thousand (4000).

Two setts for rupees four thousand four hundred and forty four, seven annaes (4444-7) current each, in all eight thousand eight hundred and eighty eight, fourteen annaes (8888-14) received of Henry Speke Esqr., payable to Henry Speke Esqr., is pounds sterling one thousand (1000).

One sett for rupees seventeen thousand seven hundred and seventy seven, twelve annaes, six pice (17777-12-6) current received of Mr. William Mackett, payable to Mr. Charles Browne, is pounds sterling two thousand (2000).

One sett for rupees fourteen thousand seven hundred and eighty nine, seven annaes (14789-7) current received of William Mackett Esqr., payable to Mr. Charles Browne, is pounds sterling sixteen hundred and sixty three, sixteen shillings and three pence (1663-16-3).

One sett for rupees two thousand nine hundred and eighty eight, five annaes, three pice (2988-5-3) current received of William Mackett Esqr., payable to Mr. David Findley, is pounds sterling three hundred and thirty six, three annaes, [sic] nine pice [sic] (336-3-9).

One sett for rupees thirty five thousand five hundred and fifty five, nine annaes (35555-9) current received of Mr. William Fullerton, payable to Edward Holden Cruttenden Esqr., is pounds sterling four thousand (4000).

One sett for rupees thirteen thousand three hundred and thirty three, five annaes, three pice (13333-5-3) current received of Captain John Fraser, payable to Captain John Fraser, is pounds sterling fifteen hundred (1500).

The whole amount of bills granted by this ship is rupees seven hundred and seventeen thousand seven hundred and twenty seven, twelve annaes, six pice (717727-12-6) current or pounds eighty thousand six hundred and forty four, seven shillings and two pence (80644-7-2).

4. We have likewise granted Captain Nicholas Webb three certificates of one tenor and date for rupees twenty six thousand six hundred and sixty six, ten annaes (26666-10) current or pounds sterling three thousand (3000), being the part produce of his outward bound adventure and profits thereon.

5. There being a great scarcity of small craft in the place, we have permitted Captain Burdett to bring the *Elizabeth* up to town for the greater

dispatch of unloading her outward bound cargoe and taking in her saltpetre. We are with the greatest respect,

May it please Your Honours,
Your most faithful humble servants,

Roger Drake Junr. / C. Manningham / Richd. Becher / M. Collet / W. Mackett / Thos. Boddam.

Fort William, 21st January 1758.

LETTER DATED 23 JANUARY 1758

Landing of 700 French troops at Pondicherry—Need of disciplined European troops and artillery and military stores for defence of Company's possessions in Bengal—Confirmation of Mir Jafar by the Mughal Emperor—Frankland deputed to take possession of villages assigned by the Nazzab—Mir Jafar's arrangements for payment of his dues to the Company.

TO the Hon'ble the Secret Committee of the Hon'ble the East India Company.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. Since closing our letter by the *Marlborough* we were favoured with your commands of the 25th March 1757, and observe with great concern that the reports industriously propagated by our enemies of a large squadron being fitted out at Port L'Orient with a considerable number of land forces on board for the East Indies have some foundation in them. We are the more alarmed at this intelligence as we find it has not been in your power to procure a sufficient number of recruits to put us upon any degree of equality with our competitors in case their armament arrives safe. A squadron of ten ships have already been upon the Coast and by the best accounts we can get they landed about seven hundred Europeans at Pondicherry. It is not improbable this is the division which left Port L'Orient in January as mentioned in your letter. Should a second division leave Europe with a further reinforcement of troops without being interrupted by any of the fleets we have at sea, or without an equal force being sent out on our side, the Company's possessions in every part of India will run the most imminent risque, but more particularly those in Bengal as they are the most defenceless of any and of the greatest consequence to both parties. It will not be possible we imagine for the French Company to subsist long without their trade from these provinces. It is therefore to be expected they will make some strenuous effort to re-settle here which cannot be done (during the war) without dispossessing of us. Such an event at this juncture would be too fatal to the Company not to require their serious attention and utmost endeavours to prevent it. It would be needless for us to point out any particular methods for raising men for the Company's service in Bengal. You must be the most competent judges how to act in that particular and we doubt not, Hon'ble Sirs, you will exert yourselves for the preservation of the Company's estates and valuable acquisitions here. No ways



Mir Jafar

and means shall be left unessayed by us to frustrate any attempts the enemy may make but we must repeat our former observation that it can be done no way so effectually as by being supplied from Europe with a good body of disciplined troops, trains of artillery and military stores of every kind.

2. We have the pleasure to advise you that Mr. Scrafton has wrote the President, the Nabob is confirmed from Delhi and great honours bestowed by the Mogul on Colonel Clive and Mr. Watts. The confirmation of Jaffier Ally Khan is a happy and desirable circumstance as it will establish his authority and give weight to his orders and decrees. The country remains in perfect tranquility, and could we be secure from any attack from the French, the Company would very soon experience the advantages of our present influence at the *durbar*.

3. The original *sunnud* for our holding the lands granted the Company by the late treaty being arrived, Mr. Frankland was ordered to set out on his survey of our new territories and to take possession of them on behalf of the Company. He is accordingly gone upon that service. Upon his return we shall inform the Hon'ble the Court of Directors of the necessary particulars relating thereto.

4. It is with great satisfaction, we understand from Colonel Clive that very strong *perwannahs* have been given by the Nabob on the Rajah of Bandawaun, the Phowsdar of Hughley and the Zemindar of Ingelie for the payment of great part of the first year's money agreed to be paid by the Nabob, account the balance due from him to the Company, navy, army and sufferers. Ten laack has been received in ready money and is expected at Calcutta every day with the balance of the first moiety. What remains (after the above mentioned Rajah, Fouzdar and Zemindar have complied with the Nabob's orders) is to be paid in ready money out of the Subah's treasury in April or May next.

5. Admiral Pocock with his squadron intends to leave the river in a few days in order to join Commodore Stevens on the Chorrormandel coast.

We are with the greatest respect,

Hon'ble Sirs,

Your most faithful and most obedient humble servants,

Roger Drake Junr. / C. Manningham / Richd. Becher.

Fort William, 23rd January 1758.

LETTER DATED 27 FEBRUARY 1758¹

Shipping arrangements—Measures for prevention of illicit trade by commanders of ships—Residency not to be opened at Agra—Nawab's arrangements for payment of money to the Company—Causes of decay of trade in India—Construction of citadel in Calcutta—Particulars of bills of exchange—Despatch of 12 French prisoners to Calcutta—Complaint against a free merchant for refusing Company's coin.

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours,

1. Our address under the established heads carries a detail of our whole transactions for the last year, and as an accident might happen to prevent your receiving of it in time if forwarded only by our own ships, we have transmitted a copy of it by a Portuguese ship to His Britannick Majesty's Consul at Lisbon and have requested him to get it conveyed to Your Honors by the first opportunity. By Captain Robt. Baillie likewise we sent a duplicate of our letter per *Warwick* dated 21st January 1758, and in this packet we forward a triplicate of the last and a quadruplicate of the other.

2. The *Marlborough*, Captain Alexander Macclod, was dispatched from Ingellie by Mr. Wm. Mackett on the 15th January and the *Warwick* by Mr. Wm. Hay to Fort St. George on the 28th of the same month; at that time two of the Coast and Bay ships were arrived and since have imported the other three; the *Elizabeth* we now return to Europe fully laden from hence having 200 tons of saltpetre, 30 tons of redwood and 1158 bales on board consigned to Your Honours as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed amounting to CRs. 925,500.

3. The *Boscawen* will return to Fort St. George with the *Grantham* and *Fox* to be dispatched to Canton in the proper season and proceed from thence to Europe. On each of these ships we propose lading 2000 bags of petre for the use of Madrass Presidency, the consignments of goods designed for their settlement, some lead (which they have wrote for) and part of the military stores received by these ships. They will also carry about 200 tons each stores and provisions for His Majesty's squadron.

4. As the recruits sent out this year are so inconsiderable and the advices of a large reinforcement expected by the French confirmed from all quarters, we have thought it advisable to detain the *Ilchester* and *Worcester* in the river and have permitted their coming up to Calcutta that we may have the assistance of the ships and crews in case of being attacked by the enemy.

5. By a country vessel from Fort St. George we have the pleasure of learning that Bombay ships were safely arrived at Bombay and Mr. Hodges writes the President that sixteen sail were seen by those ships in the latitude of 8 south on the other side of Cape.

6. The consignments of bullion and gold received per the *Grantham* and *Elizabeth* were forwarded to Fort St. George on His Majesty's ships *Tiger* and *Queenborough*, for which we agreed to allow the commanders one per cent freight on the delivery of it, it having been required.

7. At the same time that the *Marlborough* sailed for Europe, the *Duke*, Capn. Thos. Powney, was dispatched to Fort Marlborough with 1500 bags of rice and some gunny bags agreeable to the request made by the President and Council of Fort St. George.

8. We have reminded the commanders of your ships dispatched from hence that they are to lay in a sufficient stock of provisions and fuel for their homeward bound voyage before they leave India agreeable to your orders.

9. We shall give the strictest attention in our power to your orders for returning home all your ships the same season they arrive in India, and should have been able to have dispatched one ship more *via* Bencoolen, had the Coast and Bay ships arrived in time to have proceeded there, the President and Council of Fort St. George having wrote us there would be a sufficient quantity of surplus pepper at Fort Marlborough to have compleated one ship's tonnage provided we could assist in her lading with 200 tons of goods.

10. It would afford us the most sensible satisfaction if the situation of affairs would admit of our employing the *Ilchester* and *Worcester* so as to save the heavy charge of their demorage. An offer has been made to freight one of them to the Corromandel Coast and China, and the other might have been sent to the Coast with rice and other goods, but for the reason already given we have been obliged to refuse the offer above mentioned and to lay aside the thoughts of sending either on a country voyage, it being of more importance in our conception to the Company's interest to have the use of their men in case of being attacked than the pecuniary advantage would be of gaining an equivalent for the demorage. However, we cannot help observing that had a sufficient number of recruits been sent out to have put us in a capacity of defending the settlement against the attempts of the French, the Company would have been indemnified the greatest part of the charge of the demorage of the above mentioned ships by our employing them on country voyages.

11. On the *Doddalay* we have sent a further quantity of 500 bags of petre to Bombay.

12. Upon the arrival of the Coast and Bay ships we ordered the Import Ware House Keeper to advertise that a sale of woollen goods and copper would be made the 13th February. Enclosed we transmit the account sales for your observation which we hope will be very satisfactory. If the country remains quiet and there are no disturbances in the north, we may venture to affirm that your imports will very soon be in great demand and that a larger quantity may be disposed off at this settlement than has been sold for some years past. We shall not be wanting on our parts to encourage the sales of your goods as much as we are able and if either of the other Presidencies complain of their vent for woollens etc., and we find they may be sold at this place, we shall advise them of it and endeavour to clear their godowns of such articles as their markets will not take off.

13. The bullion received from the *Elizabeth* turned out a small matter short in weight but the Import Ware House Keeper having reported that the chests were all in a good condition and the seals not broke and Capn Burdett representing to us that neither he nor his purser saw it weighed off and chested in Europe, we have given him up his bill of lading without insisting on the deficiency, imagining it might arise from our having no troy weights to weigh it off by. We have however wrote to the President and Council of Fort St. George to have it weighed off at their settlement in the usual method and shall advise Your Honours how it turns out.

14. The Coast and Bay ships having been obliged to put in at the Brazils, the commanders were necessitated to make use of part of the bullion they had on board which we shall take care to have replaced in rupees, and to the produce of it in our mint.

15. On the 2nd February Mr. Ralph Leycester sent in a letter to the Board acquainting us that since delivering in his reports of private trade found on board the *Warwick*, *Grantham* and *Elizabeth*, he had been informed that a large quantity of copper, lead and iron had been clandestinely landed from those ships which as a covenanted servant he thought himself bound to apprise the Board of, as the consequences of such illicit trade might be very prejudicial to the Company's sales. He therefore desired our orders to trace out the quantities landed of those articles and who the purchasers were, that by making a proper example of them others might be deterred from doing the like.

16. Upon this information we judged it proper to revive the orders we made before the capture of the settlement that all private trade from the Europe ships should first be carried to the factory stairs to be inspected by the Import Ware House Keeper or his assistants and not landed till his permission was obtained. We have likewise advertised that no persons residing in the settlement are to purchase woollen goods, copper, lead or iron from the commanders or officers of the Company's ships without permission from the Import Ware House Keeper for the time being upon pain of losing the Company's protection and being expelled the settlement.

17. We request Your Honours will send out no more carpets till we write for them, there being no demand at present for that article.

18. Had not the troubles in the country come on we should, agreeable to our promise, have given Your Honors our sentiments on Mr. Holwell's motion for settling a residency at Agra and sending some small adventures of your staples to the inland marts under the management of our junior servants. The last motion was in a manner settled by the Board when Cossimbuzar was first invested and some junior servants appointed to proceed with a small quantity of broad cloth, copper etc., to Radnagur, Cutwa and other *aurungs*. It would undoubtedly be attended with some benefit to the Company had we servants enough to spare for such residencies, as the buyers at our sales carry the goods to those markets to vend, but then we apprehend it would hurt the Calcutta sales, as no body would find it worth their while to purchase the Company's goods at Calcutta if our servants resided at the markets they must sell at and could undersell them whenever they please, which consideration added to the expence of servants, peons, banyans and warehouses would, we imagine, render it very little beneficial to the Company.

19. In relation to a residency at Agra we are to observe that the distance is so great, the northern provinces of the empire so liable to troubles and the great cities so frequently plundered by Afghans, Moguls and others that we think it would be exposing the Company's estate to a risque more than the profits would be adequate to, especially if Your Honors approve of keeping a factory at Patna where broad cloth and copper may and will be purchased by the Delhi and Agra merchants if those cities enjoy peace and tranquility.

20. This being the last conveyance of the season we think it proper to say a few words on the investments sent home from hence, and here we must remark that in general the goods provided this year are inferiors to those purchased by our *gomastahs* before the loss of the settlement, which must be imputed not only to the lateness of our commencing business on account of the jealousy we entertained of the late Nabob's intention but likewise to the parti-

cular circumstance of the capture of our settlement the preceeding year, as the weavers had been unemployed a season and, seeing no prospect of our return, had neglected the fabricating of the sortments of cloth fit for the Company and manufactured principally ordinary and inferior sortments of cloth for the common huzar consumption. The same reason must be assigned for the prices of many sortments being enhanced as we were obliged to allow an advance to engage the weavers to set about the goods proper for the Company and allow our *gomastahs* to purchase ready made cloth, otherwise we must have fallen greatly short in the quantities we were in want off. Upon the whole therefore we flatter ourselves Your Honors will allow we have done as much or more than could have been expected, considering the distraction of the late times and the unsettled state of these provinces for two years past. We can with trust assure Your Honors our utmost endeavours have not been wanting to procure and send you a handsome investment and if we have been disappointed in our wishes, it has not been owing to any neglect on our parts.

21. In the *Warrick's* invoice there were 32 bales included which were not shipped for want of sloops and as they were very fine goods we could not venture sending them down the river on boats. They are now laden on the *Elizabeth*.

22. By this ship are forwarded our prizings, general account current of moneys advanced the *gomastahs* of every *aurung*, goods received from them and balance remaining in cloth, money etc., with a particular account current of each *aurung* for your observation, by which you will find we have supplied them with 17,87423-10-3 and goods to the amount of 12,72721-9-3.

23. Having now the early months to begin our purchases for the ensuing year and a sufficiency of money in our treasury to supply the calls of our *gomastahs* and subordinates, we think there is the greatest reason to flatter ourselves with making a very satisfactory investment for the next ships unless some unforeseen accident should disappoint our present hopeful prospect.

24. We have been so full already in relation to our transactions with the Government that we have but little to say on that subject more than to advice of the sum of rupees being received in ready money on account of the first year's payment of the remaining moiety, the *perwannahs* are given on three of the principal provinces for a large sum in further part of that payment and that the Nabob has promised to make good the balance in April or May next out of his own treasury of the first year's payment becoming due in March, part of which is now arrived and some remittances made from Muxadabad to Dacca and Luckipore with a sum paid at Cossimbuzar factory. The *sunnud* likewise for holding the territories given us by treaty we have received and Mr. Frankland is gone to take possession in the Company's name; when he returns we shall duly advise Your Honours of all particulars relating to their extent, revenue etc., etc.

25. In this place we should comply with your orders for giving you our sentiments on the general complaint of the decay of trade in India, had we time to take that affair under consideration in a proper manner, but as an enquiry into the reasons of the decay complained of would necessarily take up a great deal of time and require a long detail to state the facts intelligently for your knowledge, we must beg leave to defer a particular reply to that part

of your commands and shall only observe in general that the complaint is not without foundation, that the ruin of some principal marts abroad, the exactions of the late Subahs in Bengal and the high duties collected at the ports we trade to in the other parts of India, have been so many principal causes of the decline of our trade which; if added to the number of purchasers being encreased in these provinces, the competition of the French settled at Chandernagore and the great quantities of sugar made by the Dutch at Batavia and carried from hence to Surat and the Gulph of Persia, there will be no room to be surprised at the decay so much complained of.

26. By Captn Brohier's letters to Your Honours you will observe the plan of the works to be erected here and probably that gentleman has made some kind of calculate of the expence which we are not competent judges of and therefore cannot inform you what it is likely to cost the Company. The citadel is now carried on with great expedition and is pretty forward. We have hopes when it is finished it will be defencible against any force the French can send against it at so great a distance from Europe, provided we have a proper garrison and are well supplied with military stores, both which we take the liberty to recommend to your more serious attention.

27. When Mr. Mace arrives your orders relating to that gentleman shall be obeyed.

28. In our letters of the 10th instant we advised Your Honours of the application made us by the Patriot Band to commission their officers and create them an independent corps, since which we have consulted some of the officers of Col. Aldercron's Regiment² who were of opinion it would no way interfere with the rules and regulations of the army and might very well be allowed of. The Board therefore being sensible of the utility of such an association and being willing to encourage the zeal shown by those gentlemen for the defence of the settlement and the service of the Company have consented to their being and acting as an independent corps and have granted commissions to the following gentlemen in that corps: a captain's commission to William Ryder Esqr., a lieutenant's commission to Mr. John Johnstone, an ensign's commission to Mr. Culling Smith, those gentlemen being chosen by the corps to be their officers.

29. Mr. Pearkes being returned from Patna has delivered in to the Board a copy of a letter to Your Honours which he purposes transmitting by this ship. As we have not time at present to make any observations upon it we shall defer our remarks till the next opportunity.

30. Mr. William Mc Guire arrived here on the *Worcester* and has taken his standing in the service conformable to Your Honor's orders.

31. In reply to the 115th paragraph of your commands of this season we can only say that no bills of exchange are signed by us till the treasury book is first layed on the table and due credit given for the amount of each bill. We apprehend therefore the irregularity complained of has been owing to the Sub-Accomptant's dating the bills on the day they were signified to him to be drawn out and that the payment has been made at two several times; but we are very certain the bills were not signed till the whole was paid; for which we beg leave to refer to our consultations where the bills are entered the day we sign.

32. The following errors in the *Marlborough's* invoice we are in this place to rectify viz.,

Instead of 1 bale marked [Mark 25] Co S cossaes orna 40 & 2¼ No. 26 containing 76 ps. CR. 672, the bale sent was marked EC [Mark 26] os cossaes cogmaria fine 40 and 2¼ was shipped.

No 5 qt. D 45 ps. @ 13—	585
50 ps. @ 11-12—	585-8

1172-8

Difference CR. 500-8

The bale of Dacca nainsooks fine 40 & 2 marked [Mark 27] No. 2 is said to contain 83 pieces whereas it should have been 94 pieces, there being a small bundle in the said bale qt. 11 ps. nainsooks fine flowered 20 and 2½ as follows

B 2 @ 30	—	60
C 4 @ 28	—	112
D 3 @ 26	—	78
E 2 @ 24	—	48
11		298

Difference in CR. 298

CR. 798-8

the amount therefore of the *Marlborough's* invoice instead of CR. 878500 should have been 879298-8.

33. We are now to advice of the sums for which we have granted bills of exchange at 2s. 3d each, the respective amounts being first accounted in the treasury.

One sett to Messrs Manningham and Frankland for CRs. 3099-9-9 payable to Messrs Moses and Raphael Franco being the nett proceeds of coral marked [Mark 1] No. 6 per *Chesterfield* 1752 £Str. 348-14-1.

One sett to Paul Richd. Pearkes for CRs. 8000 payable to Messrs Nettleton and Raikes or order £Str. 900.

One sett to Mr. Edward Barwell for CRs. 20943-6 payable to Willm Barwell Junr. being the proceeds of one chest of coral marked W. B. No. 3 £Str. 2356-2-7.

One sett to Paul Richd. Pearkes Esqr. for CR. 2097-12-6 payable to William Fraser Esqr. and Mr. John Verelst £Str. 236.

One sett to do do for CR. 17777-12-6 payable to the hon'ble Sr. Edward Clive, William Belcher, Richard Clive and Mr. William Smyth King or order £Str. 2000.

One sett to Messrs Manningham and Frankland for current rupees 2430-6-3 payable to Judah Supino or order being in further part proceeds of coral beads marked [Mark 28] No. 13 imported per *Walpole* 1756 £Str. 273-8-5.

One sett to do do for current rupees 4706-3 payable to Joseph Salvadore or order in full proceeds of coral beads marked IS No 3 per *Delawar* 1756 £Str. 529-8-6.

One sett to Messrs Drake, Manningham and Frankland for current

rupees 3542-14-3 payable to Abraham and Jacob Franco or order being the nett proceeds of coral beads mark'd F F No 1 imported per *Wager* 1751 £Str. 398-11-6.

One sett to do for CRs. 9735-4-6 payable to Messrs Abraham and Jacob Franco for the full proceeds of a chest of coral marked B No. 9 imported per *Grantham* 1758 £Str. 1095-4-5:

One sett to ditto for CRs. 16590-2 payable to Abraham and Jacob Franco for the nett proceeds of coral beads F No. 1 imported per *Fox* 1758 £Str. 1866-7-9.

One sett to Colonel Francis Ford for current rupees 130,000 payable to John Calcraft Esqr. or order £Str. 14625.

One sett to Mr. John Johnstone for current rupees 444-7 payable to Captain James Johnstone and William Johnstone or order £Str. 50.

One sett to Mr. Francis Sykes for current rupees 444-7 payable to Mr. Sykes or order £Str. 50.

One sett to Paul Richard Pearkes Esqr. for current rupees 3235-8-89 payable to Captain George Meard or order £Str. 364.

The whole amount for which CRs. 223047-13-6 for £Str. 25092-17-3.

34. We have likewise granted Captn. Burdett three certificates of one tenour and date for CRs. 26666-10-9 for £Str. 3000 being for the part produce of his outward bound adventure and profit thereon.

35. Agreeable to your orders we shall in future substitute the office instead of the person in our books.

36. The paragraphs of your commands relating to the Mayor's Court have been sent and a strict attention ordered to the purport of those paragraphs.

37. Your Honours may rely on our taking every method in our power for the security of our settlement against any attempts of the French, the management of the necessary measures for effecting of which being left in a more particular manner to the Select Committee, they will advise of the steps which have been taken and are still to be pursued for the above end. Whenever they consult the Board upon that subject we shall give them our advice and assistance.

38. From the President and Council at Bombay we have the pleasure to learn that Commodore Stevens with his squadron was arrived at that place and were refitting to join Admiral Pocock.

39. Captn. Burdett having applied to us for leave to carry home 12 of the French prisoners under confinement to make up his complement of men, as he had lost that number since his arrival in the river, we have assented to his request and shall accordingly send twelve of them on board the *Elizabeth* to Europe, on the arrival of which ship Your Honours will please to order them to be delivered over to the proper officers as they are in fact His Majesty's prisoners made so at the capture of Fort D'Orleans at Chandernagore.

40. Before we close this letter we cannot help taking notice of the behaviour of Mr. Charles Douglas, a free merchant residing at this settlement, who having a large sum of money at interest in the Company's cash made a demand of it in consequence of our orders for the ceasing of interest and declaring the risque of such bonds to be on the proprietors' account as were not tendered for payment. Upon his application for the discharge of those

notes we ordered the Committee of Treasury to pay him the amount of the principal and interest of the bonds in his possession—being in all current rupees 119643—which they offered him in Calcutta *siccas*, but he peremptorily refused taking the amount of his bonds in that coin, and on the 12th January wrote a letter to the Board upon that subject protesting against the Company and their representatives for all loss of *batta*, interest and risque if he was not paid in some other specie of rupees. Having considered of Mr. Douglas his conduct and thinking it unbecoming any person residing under the Company's protection to refuse the money coined in their mint established by the authority of the Subah of these provinces and the currency enforced by the strongest *perwannahs* that can be procured, we ordered our Secretary to write Mr. Douglas the amount of his bonds was ready in the treasury in Calcutta *siccas* and that if he refused to receive them in payment the risque was on his own account. But being informed that such a tender was not legal unless made by a notary publick, we ordered Mr. Edward Ridge to carry the money to his house and tender him the payment of his bonds which if he refused Mr. Ridge was ordered to protest against him. This was accordingly done but Mr. Douglas having barred his gates the notary could not enter his house and was obliged to nail up the protest against his door. In the interim Mr. Douglas had been with Mr. Ridge and had ordered him to protest formally and according to law against the Company and their representatives for all loss of *batta*, interest or other damages accruing from not being paid in Arcot, Madras, Bombay or *sunnaut* rupees. Copies of both protests, Mr. Douglas his first letter and the Secretary's answer are transmitted in this packett for your observation and we doubt not will resent such a behaviour in a person residing under your protection and benefiting himself by your indulgences and liberty to him to trade in India, as we think such a person ought to be the last to discourage and obstruct the currency of our money.

41. It has not been possible to get the consultations brought up to the day of dispatch conformable to your orders on account of the scarcity of assistants. We have been obliged to employ Mr. Phillip Dacres on the sett transmitted by this ship but as that gentleman is likewise stationed in the import ware house and has been obliged to attend the business of that office very closely since the arrival of the Coast and Bay ships, he could not bring them up farther than the 26th December, which we hope Your Honours will excuse when it is considered how few assistants we have at present in Calcutta, how sickly the season has been and the great increase of business in all our offices.

42. We have laden on this ship sundry stores for the use of the island St. Helena amounting to CRs...., invoice and bill of lading whereof we have transmitted to the Governour and Council there.

43. Mr. Boddam who dispatches this ship from Ingellie will advise of what else is necessary from thence.

44. We wish her a safe and speedy passage to Your Honors and are with the greatest respect.

Fort William, 27th February 1758.

May it please Your Honours,
Your faithful humble servants.

A true copy
Culling Smith
Secretary.

LETTER DATED 2 MARCH 1758

Reconciliation between Ramnarayan and Mir Jafar—Arrangements to meet the French menace in Bengal—Col. Forde's terms unacceptable—Surrender of Courtin, the French Chief at Dacca.

TO Hon'ble the Secret Committee for the Affairs of the Hon'ble East India Company.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. Duplicate of our letter of date the 25th January and triplicate of what we wrote under date the 13th January are enclosed. By them you will observe the state of our affairs at that time.

2. Since the date of those letters nothing very remarkable has occurred in the country to advise of. We learn however from the Colonel that Ram Narran has visited the Nabob and that every thing seems to be accommodated between them, the former being promised to be confirmed *Naib* of Patna.

3. We were alarmed some days ago with a report that the Nabob was cut off near Patna by Ram Narran's party upon discovering some intended treachery against their master. This induced us to order Mr. Scrafton to send down from time to time whatever money he received account the Company, navy, army and sufferers; at the same time we sent up a party of thirty Europeans and *topasses* to Muxadavad to guard the money Mr. Scrafton had in his possession. Happily the report of the Nabob being cutt off is contradicted, and by the last letter from camp there was no likelihood of disturbances.

4. Upon Mr. Pococke's leaving the river with his squadron we wrote to Colonel Clive and urged him to return with the army to Calcutta or Cossimbuzar as soon as ever the Nabob's affairs would admit of it, our present garrison being so weak that we should not be able to repel even a very small force. We have repeated our instances to the Colonel to return as soon as possible and hope to hear very soon that the army is on its way back.

5. We have requested Colonel Clive likewise to petition the Nabob for a body of ten or fifteen thousand horsemen and gunmen being kept at Hughley for our assistance, should we require them, and that he will order the zemindar[s] of the country to the southward of Hughley to distress the French as much as lyes in their power if they bring a force to Bengal and on no account to assist them with provisions or anything else. We hope this measure will be of great service in case an enemy's fleet should attempt to enter the river.

6. For our further security against such an attempt we ordered the Master Attendant to assemble the pilots and some commanders in the country service and consult on the best means for opposing the entrance of a French squadron and for destroying it, should we be unsuccessful in preventing their getting into the river. In consequence of these orders the Master Attendant

has delivered in a report of what is necessary to be done, which report being approved of by the Board and by Captn. Brohier (to whose consideration it was referred) we shall give the Master Attendant orders to put it in execution. We have directed likewise that only one pilot sloop remain[in] Ballasore road at a time and that others be stationed at proper distances to communicate signals to each other in case the enemy's squadron arrives in the road. We shall consult the Dutch likewise upon this subject and endeavour to prevail on them to keep their pilot sloops out of the road till the time their own ships are expected and to consent to the removal of their buoys.

7. Our works are now carried on with great vigour and we shall use our best endeavours to get them compleated as soon as it can possibly be done.

8. You have been advised of our having applied to Lieut-Colonel Ford to come to Bengal and take the charge of our garrison as Major of this settlement. Triplicate and quadruplicate of our letters reached him at Fort St. George and he instantly embarked on the *Sally* in consequence of that application and arrived here a few days ago. Upon his arrival he sent us a letter informing us how ready he should be to serve the Company by staying here, of the disadvantages it would be attended with to himself by losing the commission and rank he bore in His Majesty's service and requiring the sum of five thousand pounds in hand as a compensation for that disadvantage.

9. This letter we laid before the Board, the majority whereof thought it would be making a contract of so unprecedented a kind in the Company's affairs that they could not assent to that part of Colonel Forde's proposals, notwithstanding they were sensible of the disadvantages it would be to him. Messrs Manningham, Pearkes and Boddam were of a different opinion and thought that as the necessity of our affairs obliged us to request Colonel Ford to proceed to the Bay, a compensation for his losing His Majesty's service and future prospects therein ought to be made him and that the sum he had fixed on was a very reasonable one.

10. We wrote Colonel Ford an answer to his proposals conformable to the sentiments of the majority of the Board. At the same time we acquainted him it was not possible in Europe to foresee the present circumstances of the Company's affairs in India, when His Majesty thought fit to recall the regiment under Colonel Aldercorn, and as the Crown had always shewn a particular regard to the interests and welfare of the East India Company, we were inclined to think his stay at our request in such an exigency would not displease His Majesty nor lose him the rank he bore in his service if properly represented by our hon'ble masters, which we should recommend it to them to do in the strongest terms.

11. The rank, honor, emoluments and allowances was [were] offered Colonel Forde as our Major in case he thought proper to remain in the Company's service; but these terms not being accepted of, Colonel Forde has determined to return to Europe on the *Elizabeth*, and we have given Captn. Burdett orders to accommodate him in the best manner he is able.

12. That we may have constant and quick intelligence from Muxadavad and what passes in that city while our army is at so great a distance, we have ordered Mr. Scrafton to fix several stages of *cossids* between that place and Culna and shall ourselves fix other stages between Culna and Calcutta.

13. From the Select Committee at Fort St. George we have been informed that the French had attempted nothing during the monsoon but were encamped a little to the southward of Pondicherry.

14. Monsr. Courtin, the French Chief at Dacca, who escaped from that city a little before the late revolution with a party of soldiers, and has not been heard of for some time past, has wrote us a letter offering to surrender himself and his party prisoners of war, and demanding a *perwannah* to come to Calcutta without molestation. We have accepted of his offer and have wrote to Mr. Srafton to procure such a *perwannah*.

15. We have nothing more to add than to assure Your Hon'ble Sirs our utmost endeavours shall be exerted for the preservation of your settlements, rights and privileges in these provinces as far as lays in our power.

We are with the greatest respect,

Hon'ble Sirs,

Your most obedient humble servants,

Fort William, 2nd March 1758.

Roger Drake Junr. / Richd. Becher.

LETTER DATED 2 MARCH 1758

Acceptance of Colonel Forde's terms.

TO the Hon'ble the Secret Committee for the Affairs of the Hon'ble East India Company.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. Since closing the accompanying letter the attorneys of Colonel Clive have taken upon them to answer for 2500 £ sterling being paid Colonel Ford by their constituent in case he remains in the Company's service, and as the present conjuncture is extreamly critical and an officer of ability greatly wanted in our present situation to succeed Colonel Clive in case of an accident happening to that gentleman or he should return to the Coast, the President and Mr. Becher join with Messrs Manningham, Pearkes and Boddam in thinking it very material to keep Lieut. Col. Ford as a Major of this garrison, and assent to the remaining sum of 2500 £ sterling being made good out of the Company's cash to make up the compensation demanded by Colonel Forde which we esteem very reasonable and we flatter ourselves the Hon'ble the Court of Directors will approve of the step we have taken to secure a good officer in such precarious times.

2. If Colonel Ford's stay in the Company's service at our request was properly represented to His Majesty it might be of use to him in preserving his rank, and as we think his readiness to remain in India for the Company's

interest entitles him to that mark of your favor, we beg leave to recommend it to your consideration, and are with the greatest respect,

Hon'ble Sirs,

Your most obedient humble servants,
Roger Drake Junr. / Richd. Becher.

Fort William, 2nd March 1758.

39

LETTER DATED 26 AUGUST 1758¹

Abolition of Rotation Government and election of Clive as President of Fort William—Reasons for abolition of Rotation Government—Loss of Fort St. David—Cordial relations between Mir Jafar and the Company—News of French losses and Bussy's differences with the Marathas.

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours,

1. We take this opportunity of writing a few lines as it is not improbable there may be a vessel under dispatch for Europe from the Presidency of Fort St. George from whence this letter will be forwarded to Your Honors.

2. The *Hardwick*, Capt. John Samson, arrived here the 20 June with your commands of the 3rd August and 11th November 1757, by the last of which the government of this Presidency was put in rotation and conferred on Messrs Watts, Manningham, Becher and Holwell.

3. In consequence of those orders Mr. Watts took his seat in Council as President; but as the gentlemen who were appointed to preside alternately conceived that many inconveniences would arise by that plan of government at this juncture, and the rotation ordered in your commands of the 11 November would be very prejudicial to the Company's affairs in Bengal as they are now circumstanced, they moved the Board to give that affair a serious consideration and recommended to them a deviation from those orders for many weighty reasons which Your Honors will find entered at large upon the face of our consultation of the 26th June. Those reasons appearing to the Board to have great weight in them we concurred in their sentiments and unanimously requested Colonel Clive to accept of the Presidentship of the Company's affairs in Bengal till Your Honors think proper to appoint one yourselves. Copy of the above mentioned consultation of 26th June we enclose for your observation and beg leave to refer ourselves thereto for the particulars of our whole proceeding in this affair.

4. We flatter ourselves the reasons urged in the above mentioned consultation will appear sufficiently solid to Your Honors to justify our setting

aside your directions in so important a particular, to which we should have paid the utmost deference and most ready obedience, had the Company's commercial concerns alone been in question ; but as the treaty with the Nabob and our influence at the *Durbar* by the late revolution were circumstances of the highest consequence, and which Your Honors were not acquainted with when the *Hardwick* left England, we thought it our duty to our employers made it incumbent on us to give them the first place in our attention, and as nothing would have weakened that influence more than the rotation ordered in your commands of *Hardwick*, and by that means have rendered the completion of the treaty itself precarious, we have ventured to alter your appointment till we hear further from Your Honors or till a President is appointed in the usual method, which we hope will meet your approbation.

5. It is with the greatest concern we have heard of the loss of Fort St. David. The particulars of this affair you will be informed of more fully by the President and Council of Fort St. George.

6. As soon as we heard of this loss we gave directions to our subordinates and the *gomastahs* employed at the *aurungs* to increase the ordinary sortments of their respective investments that we might in some measure make up for the disappointment the loss of Fort St. David will probably occasion in the investments from the Coast.

7. We have not as yet been able to station the ships now in the river, as the President and Council of Fort St. George have not informed us if they shall want one in September to be filled up and finally dispatched for Europe from their Presidency ; should they be in no want of a ship for that purpose, we shall dispatch the *Ilchester* fully laden from hence as early in the season as it is prudent for her to leave the river. We hope to be assisted in the dispatch of another ship by the surplus pepper at Fort Malborough of which we daily expect to receive advice from the Coast.

8. The Nabob of these provinces is now in Calcutta upon a visit to the Governor. We are at present on the best of terms with him and have no reason to complain of his want of punctuality in the performance of his agreement with us. The country enjoys a profound tranquillity and we have not the least doubt but it will continue so, provided we are properly supplied with troops from Europe conformable to our repeated instances ; *tuncaws* are given us for the remainder of the monies due to us by the treaty, and we are allowed to collect in the revenues of Burdwan, Nuddea and other places without any intervention of the Government's officers till the ballance of what is due to us is discharged in full.

9. Since writing thus far Captn. Barton arrived from Madrass with two letters from the President and Council of Fort St. George, by which we find they have determined to dispatch the *Grantham* to Your Honors with the bales they have on hand. This makes it unnecessary for us to send up a ship in September to the Coast. We shall therefore load the *Ilchester* fully from hence and dispatch her as early in the season as possible.

10. We have the pleasure likewise to learn by the letters from Fort St. George that there will be near 700 tons of surplus pepper this season at Bencoolen which will assist us in returning two of the Coast and Bay ships in case we have more tonnage this season than our investment requires. The Nabob

returned to his capital yesterday and upon leaving us made the highest professions of friendship and esteem for the English.

11. Mr. John Bristow, Resident at Cuttack, having proceeded to Ingeram by direction of the Select Committee and at the pressing instance of the Rajah of that country, has wrote us that the French are dispossessed of almost every thing but Massulapatan, and that Monsieur Bussy is at variance with the Morattoes. We have in consequence of this advice desired the President and Council of Fort St. George to send a servant from that Presidency to Visagapatam who is acquainted with the nature of the investments in that country.

We have nothing more to add and are with the greatest respect,

May it please Your Honors,

Your faithful servants,

Robert Clive / Wm. Watts / Richd. Becher / W. Frankland / W. Mackett / Thos. Boddam.

Enclosure 1
(Vide *paragraph 3*)

Monday 26th June at 7 o'clock A.M.

At a consultation present the Hon'ble William Watts Esqr., President, Chas. Manningham and Richd. Becher Esqrs., Messrs William Collet, William Mackett, Thomas Boddam.

The consultations of the 21st and 22nd being wrote fair were now read, approved and signed.

Messrs Watts, Manningham and Becher desire leave to acquaint the Board their most serious attention has been devoted to the commands of our Hon'ble employers naming a rotation of Governours for the future conduct of affairs at this settlement, and having duly weighed the nature of this regulation with all its attending consequences, a sincere conviction of its being in our present situation and circumstances repugnant to the true interest of our Hon'ble masters and the welfare of this settlement in general, obliges them (though with the utmost respect and difference) [*sic*] to believe, had our Hon'ble employers been apprized of the present state of their affairs in this kingdom, they would have placed the Presidentship in some one person as the easiest and clearest method of conducting their concerns as well as preserving and maintaining the weight and influence the late happy revolution has given us with the Subah of these provinces, on which at the present period the interest and welfare of the Company at this settlement in the highest degree depends. The difficulties we may be liable to by a rotation in the executive part of government with its consequences are sufficiently obvious in our present state of affairs; however they shall only mention a few points: the treaty with the Nabob, not perfect in all its branches, the possession of the lands incompleat, the settlement in no posture of defence, the French considerably reinforced with military and a fleet and their designs with respect to Bengal unknown, the impossibility of impressing a proper idea of this divided power in the minds of the Subah and others in this kingdom who have at all times been

accustomed to the government of a single person. A little reflection on these particulars will introduce many more and clearly evince the necessity of this motion. They have the highest sense of gratitude for the honour conferred on them by their employers in their appointment and deem themselves in duty bound at this juncture of affairs to wave all personal honours and advantages which might accrue to themselves and unanimously declare it as their sentiment that a rotation in the executive part of government would be highly prejudicial to the real interest of the Company, and they hope this sentiment with its motives will be received conformable to their intention as the clearest proof they could possibly give of their sincere attachment to the welfare of their Hon'ble employers and the settlement in general. They lay these particulars before the Board and request the aid of their councils and judgement on the occasion, and if they agree to the propriety and necessity of what they have the honour to lay before them they presume no difficulty will arise on the subject. The Court of Directors in their commands of the 3rd August last by naming Col. Clive head of the committee they then ordered for affairs here, his eminent service, abilities and merit together with his superiour weight and influence with the present Subah and his officers, are motives which have great force with them on this occasion and all concur in pointing out Col. Clive as the person best able to render our Hon'ble employers the necessary service at this juncture till they shall make their further pleasure known by the appointment of a President for their affairs here, and they beg leave to add they have great pleasure in shewing that their attachment to the true interest of our employers and the welfare of this settlement has, as it ought to have, the due preference to any personal honour or advantage we might receive by the order of rotation.

The Board having considered the foregoing proposal with due attention and concurring entirely in the sentiments of those gentlemen with respect to the prejudice a rotation in the executive part of government may be attended with at this juncture and being unanimous in opinion that a deviation from the Honble Company's commands in this instance in our present circumstances will be for the true interest of our employers, Colonel Clive likewise (for the reasons set forth in the minute made by Messrs Watts, Manningham and Becher) appearing to the Board the person best able at this time to render our Hon'ble masters the necessary service,

Resolved that an application be made to Colonel Clive from the Board to accept of being President of the Company's affairs in Bengal till a person is appointed from Europe and that our reasons at large be given him for his acceptance of that trust upon these terms.

Adjourned till nine o'clock that the letter to Colonel Clive may be prepared and engrossed fair.

The 26th June at 9 A.M.

The Council being met according to adjournment and the letter to Colonel Clive being engrossed fair, was now read, approved and signed.

Agreed it be sent to Colonel Clive directly and that he be requested to give an immediate answer if possible.

The 26th June at 10 A.M.

Colonel Clive having returned an answer to our letter it was read at the Board.

Ordered it to be entered after this day's consultation.

The Colonel having therein accepted the offer made him by the Board of presiding in the Company's affairs in Bengal till a person is appointed from Europe,

Agreed the charge of the factory with the Hon'ble Company's books and papers, the ballance of cash and one of the keys of the Treasury be delivered him as President and Governour of this settlement.

Wm. Watts / C. Manningham / Richd. Becher / M. Collett / Jno. Boddam.

Enclosure 2

To the Hon'ble Watts Esqre., and the rest of the Gentlemen of the Council of Fort William.

Gentlemen,

1. I have received your letter of this day's date and cannot sufficiently express the grateful sense I have of the favourable opinion you are pleased to entertain of me the which has induced you to desire my acceptance of the Presidency at this critical time.

2. Though I think I have cause to be dissatisfyd with the Court of Directors for laying me aside in their new form of government without any reason assigned, after having named me as head of the General Committee in the letter of the 3rd August last, yet animated by the noble example of publick spirit which you have set me I have determined to wave all private considerations where the general good is concerned, and as there is no doubt that the government of a single person, involved as we are now with the country powers, must have infinite advantages over the complicate form of government established from home, I shall from that motive (though both my health and private concerns strongly require my returning to Europe) accept the offer you have done me the honour to make me till such time as our employers have appointed a President in the usual form.

3. I cannot omit testifying my acknowledgments, gentlemen, to you all in general for the zeal you have discovered for the service of our masters on this occasion, but in particular to you who have been nominated in the rotation of Governours. You have made such a sacrifice that few, if any, instances can be shown of the like. You have of your own accord parted with the dignity of government and all the advantages therein annexed because you apprehended that the Company's affairs could not be properly conducted under a government so constituted.

4. Unequal as I am to the weighty task of directing this Presidency, especially in civil matters to which I have never been able to give due attention on account of my military avocations, I am now, gentlemen, to beg the assistance of your advice and hope you will persevere in the zeal you have

hitherto so abundantly shewn, and that none of you, but more especially Mr. Watts, who can render me considerable service from his thorough knowledge of the politicks of this country, will entertain a thought of leaving me till affairs are finally determined from home.

- I am,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Robert Clive.

Calcutta, 26th June 1758.

40

LETTER DATED 22 OCTOBER 1758

Shipping news—Despatch of saltpetre, red-wood and pepper—Uninterrupted collection of tankhwahs from specified provinces by the Company—Grant to the Company of exclusive parwana for purchase of saltpetre from Bihar.

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours,

1. The opportunity of a Dutch ship bound directly for Europe offering, we have embraced it to transmit you a triplicate of the letter we wrote under date the 26 August and to inform Your Honours of such other circumstances as we esteem material and necessary for you to be early acquainted with.

2. The *Pitt*, Captn. Wlson, arrived the 14 of September at Fort St. George. She left the ships destined for China with His Majesty's ships *Grafton* and *Sunderland* off the Madairas and steered for the island of St. Iago, but finding three large French ships at anchor in the harbour, Captn. Wilson made the best of his way to St. Augustine's Bay in the island of Madagascar. When the *Pitt* left that bay, she met the *London* and *Warren* going in. We have therefore great reason to hope that all the above ships imported safe at Madras in October.

3. By a letter from Mr. Johnstone to the Select Committee we have the pleasure to learn that the merchants of Vizagapatam are willing to contract with us for the delivery of 200 bales of cloth this season, and we imagine from what Mr. Johnstone writes that they might be prevailed on to contract for a much larger quantity after the arrival of the forces under Col. Ford. In case therefore these favourable advices should be further confirmed from thence and the President and Council of Fort St. George decline sending any servant with treasure from that Presidency for carrying on the northern investments as usual, we propose to send one of your covenanted servants on this establishment with money and proper orders for providing as large a quantity of the Company's sortments of cloth the ensuing season as can be procured. This measure we flatter ourselves will meet your approbation.

4. As we have great reason to expect that two of the ships sent with troops to the Coast will return the latter end of this month or the beginning of next, we propose immediately on their arrival to proceed in lading them with bales, and make no doubt of being able to dispatch two ships from hence by the middle of January with one thousand bales on each, completing the rest of their tonnage with saltpetre.

5. We hope likewise to dispatch two more from hence the latter end of the season, with an equal number of bales, completing the rest of their tonnage as above with red wood and saltpetre, which will make four ships this season with 4000 bales from this Presidency.

6. At Fort Marlborough they are likely to have 700 tons of surplus pepper this year which will provide for two ships, in case there should be more tonnage arrive [sic] than is sufficient for the investments of the Coast and Bay Presidencies.

7. We have freighted on the *Hardwick* (a country ship belonging to Bombay) 4000 bags of saltpetre for the use of that Presidency and shall complete the 500 tons they have indented for by such other conveyance as hereafter proceed to that place.

8. As the major part of the gentlemen in Council have thought of returning to Europe, we judge it proper to give Your Honours etc., early advice of their intentions.

9. We meet with no material interruption in collecting the sums for which the Government have given us *tuncaws* on the rajahs and *zemindars* of some of the provinces, and we have not the least doubt of getting the whole of the treaty with the present Nabob punctually performed, in case Your Honours send us out the reinforcements of troops we have repeatedly requested.

10. The saltpetre this year, we have the pleasure to acquaint Your Honours, has been provided at a very low price, by our servants at Patna, by virtue of an exclusive *perwannah* we have obtained of the Subah for the sole purchase of all the petre produced in the province of Bahar. This advantage added to the investments of cloth the Chief and Council are providing there, will make the Patna factory prove a very profitable establishment to the Company.

May it please Your Honours,

Your faithful servants,

Robert Clive / Wm. Watts / Richd. Becher / W. Frankland / W. Mackett / Thos. Boddam.

Fort William, October 22nd 1758.

The same letter dated the 9th November 1758 received of Captn. Paschond was read in Court 11th July 1759.

[The letter dated 9 November 1758 also contains the signatures of C. Manningham, Paul Richard Pearkes and M. Collet.]

LETTER DATED 10 NOVEMBER 1758¹

Bussy's activities in Golconda—Golconda Raja seeks aid of Company—Despatch of troops to the Deccan under Forde—Request for European reinforcements for Bengal.

TO the Hon'ble Secret Committee for the Affairs of the Hon'ble East India Company.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. Our last address was under date the 2d March, and the Governor and Council wrote the Court of Directors the 26th August last advising you of the alteration they thought proper to make in the government here. We now lay hold of the opportunity of a Dutch vessel to acquaint you with an expedition we have undertaken in the Deccan country, but as the conveyance is uncertain and the notice we received but short, we must beg leave to defer descending into particulars till the dispatch of our own ships.

2. The President having had information that Monsr. Bussy was much involved in troubles in the province of Golcondah, and received repeated letters from the principal rajah of those countries requiring our assistance, we judged we could not more effectually serve our employers than by lending our aid to bring about a revolution in those parts.

3. The removing the French from Golcondah (from whence they have drawn immense resources during the whole war) has long been a principal object of the Company's attention. We therefore thought it our indispensable duty to embrace so favorable an opportunity, and flatter ourselves, with the force we have sent, we shall be able, if not wholly to extirpate the enemy from the province, to distress them so considerably as to render the possession there of little use to them.

4. We have indeed in a manner drained ourselves that nothing might be wanting for the success of the expedition and this settlement is almost defenceless. However, so perfect a tranquillity reigns in these parts that we have as yet little or nothing to apprehend, and by the visit with which the Subah of this province has lately honored us, his attachment to and confidence in the English appears so strong that we can hardly doubt but that the treaty between us will be exactly fulfilled by him.

5. Colonel Forde to whom we have given the command of the expedition embarked with 500 Europeans, artillery included, and 2000 sepoys on board the Company's ships, *Ilchester*, *Worcester* and *Hardwick*, two sloops and a country vessell taken up by us for that purpose; the whole left their pilot the 9th of last month. We sent Mr. Johnstone, a Company's servant, some time before to Vizagapatam to get everything ready against their arrival. We herewith send you a copy of our instructions to Colonel Forde which will fully explain to you the design and scheme of the expedition.

6. The 6th instant we received a letter overland from Mr. Johnstone advising us of his arrival at Vizagapatam. He found everything there as

favourable as he could wish, the people entirely in our interest, the French being drove out thence and all the adjacent places.

7. The few forces they have, which we have reason to believe do not exceed 300 Europeans, are by what we learn in the Rajah Mundrum's district, and now commanded by Monsr. Conflans², Monsr. Bussy with Morassin, the late Chief of Massulipatam, being gone to the southward and having taken a part of the troops with them. We have heard of Monsr. Bussy's being actually at Madras by a pass on his way to Pondicherry, but where the forces are he carried with him, we have no certain account of.

8. We hope the pressing letters wrote you for supplies of men and stores will have had the due effect; however, we beg leave to repeat our request. A reinforcement of troops is absolutely necessary to secure to you the great acquisitions you have here made, for though matters are perfectly quiet at present, it is hard to say how long the calm will last and such is the nature of this country government that the only certain expedient of securing their friendship is by keeping up such a force as will render it unsafe for them to break with us, and the large addition of territory you have acquired by the late treaty has afforded you the means of maintaining a body of troops sufficient for that purpose. We shall only further add that such an opportunity can never again be expected of aggrandizing the Company, and by speedily sending the proper succours you will hereafter have it in your power to execute any plan you may think necessary for the service of the Company.

We are with respect,

Hon'ble Sirs,

Your most obedient humble servants,

Robert Clive/Wm. Watts/C. Manningham/Richd. Becher.

Fort William, the 10th November 1758.

[Duplicate of the above is dated the 11th Novr. 1758. It does not bear the signature of C. Manningham.]

42.

LETTER DATED 30 DECEMBER 1758

Clive's gratitude to the Court of Directors for his appointment as President with additional salary.

TO the Honorable Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable,

1. Words can but poorly express the sentiments of my heart on receipt of your general address; please to accept in return all that the most lively gratitude can offer, and be assured my utmost endeavours shall be exerted

in the service of those, who have done more justice to my merits than they can pretend to deserve.

2. Accept also my warmest thanks for the honor done me in your appointment to this Presidency, and for the additional salary of £1000 per annum. Your Honors may be persuaded my assistance shall not be wanting in putting the civil and military affairs of the Company on such a footing as is consistent with their true interest.

3. After the battle of Plassey I thought my commission of Commander-in-Chief would have ended there, and that I might have returned to the Coast, and from thence to England; but when intestine troubles arose, and the situation of your affairs required my marching up the country, I did not hesitate an instant to give my services where they were so justly due: the same motive of gratitude and attachment have induced me to continue in Bengal another year, and flatter myself I shall bring home with me the agreeable news of the treaty with the new Subah being entirely complete.

I am with the greatest respect,

Honorable,

Your most obliged humble servant,
Robert Clive.

Calcutta, 30th December 1758.

43

LETTER DATED 31 DECEMBER 1758

Shipping news—Measures to meet a French invasion of Bengal—Quality of imported goods—Arrangements for provision and improvement of silk at Kasimbazar factory—Return of Clive and Mir Jafar from Bihar—Advantages of the exclusive parwana for the monopoly of saltpetre in Bihar—Reply to Dutch protest—Construction of a fort at Berhampore postponed—Survey of lands near Calcutta—Progress in realization of sums due from the Nawab—Motives for the advance of money to the navy and army—Arrangements to improve the Lakshmipur zamindary—Specification of investments—Allocation of sums to specified factories for investment—Rejection of Dutch claim for loss of a ship in Ballasore Road—General effects of Mir Jafar's visit to Clive at Calcutta—Arrangements for collection of revenues from the newly acquired territories near Calcutta—Repetition of request for a strong garrison and sufficient ammunition for security of Bengal settlements—Request for a skilled gun-powder manufacturer—Action against Pearkes for defrauding the Company in the purchase of saltpetre in Bihar—Jurisdiction of Land Custom Master and Sea Custom Master—Partiality of Indian commissioners in assessing the claims of Indian sufferers at the capture of Calcutta in 1756—Contract of specified farms—News about posting of Company's servants—Bills of exchange—Mughal Emperor bestows mansab on the President of Fort William—Nawab stops Dutch business in Bengal.

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honors,

1. We have addressed you twice this season under date the 26th August and 22d October, but as we had only time by those opportunities to write a few lines, we were obliged to confine ourselves to such subjects as were the most material and necessary for Your Honors to be early advised of. Copies of those letters are forwarded in this packet.

2. We have now the pleasure to acquaint you of the safe arrival of the *London* and *Warren* in the river, on which we congratulate Your Honors.

3. By these ships we were favoured with your commands of the 3d, 8th and 23rd March and 11th April, to which we shall pay a due obedience and shall reply in the course of this letter to such parts as require being answered.

4. As this address is designed to be transmitted by the ships dispatched immediately to Europe from hence, we shall in it give Your Honors a detail of the transactions at this Presidency since the departure of the *Elizabeth* (who left Ingellie the 9th March) ranging the same under the usual established heads, and

First, of shipping

5. Both the *Ilchester* and *Worcester* having been aground in their outward bound passage, they were ordered up to town and their bottoms examined into and surveyed by our Master Attendant, whose reports are entered in our consultations.

6. The *Boscawen*, *Grantham* and *Fox* having taken in about 2000 bags of saltpetre each for the use of Fort St. George Presidency, and as many stores for His Majesty's squadron as they could carry, they were dispatched to the Coast on the 5th April. On board those ships we consigned the President and Council of Fort St. George 73 chests of bullion and 2 chests of gold.

7. Immediately after their departure a rumor being quoted that a French ship was cruizing in Ballasore road to intercept the country vessells expected in from the different parts of India, the Board directed the Secretary to send Captains Tedd and Tiddeman in order to get their ships in readiness to fall down the river upon the first notice, intending to have sent them into Ballasore road for the protection of our trade, had the report above mentioned been confirmed from good authority, but as we heard no more of the vessell which was supposed to be a French cruizer, our orders to the commanders of the *Ilchester* and *Worcester* went no further.

8. Upon a report delivered in by the Master Attendant that the *Fort St. George* sloop was in want of more repairs than she was in reality worth, and that the *Dragon* sloop purchased at Fulta was not capable of riding in Ballasore road, we ordered him to put them both up to sale the 30th April, and to sell them to the highest bidder, which was accordingly performed and the amount of what they sold for has been brought to your credit in Capt. Wedderburn's account.

9. On the 24th April imported in this river the *Tryall* sloop, Capt. Samuel Elliott, a small vessell freighted by the gentlemen at Fort Marlborough to carry some advices to the President and Council of Fort St. George. That vessell had left Bencoolen in January, but not being able to fetch to windward of Madras and being in great want of provisions and water, the master of her thought it more eligible to bear away for this place. We supplied him with stores and provisions and advanced him at different times 1000 Arcot rupees, intending to have dispatched her in August to the Coast with the Bencoolen packet, but just as we were on the point of dispatching her the master wrote in a letter to the Board informing us she had broke from her moorings, had lost all her anchors, her mast and bowsprit and had likewise received much damage in her hull, to repair which would require a great deal of time and expence; whereupon we thought it advisable to discharge her from the Company's service, as she was an useless charge to them, duplicate of her packet having been received at Madras sometime before by the *Duke*.

10. The *Fanny* snow which had been sent to Achin and the Streights of Malacca for intelligence returned hither on the 5th June with information that no French ships or vessells had been seen or heard of on that coast.

11. Under this head it may be proper to inform Your Honors, that after the departure of the squadron and dispatch of all the European ships, the Master Attendant with Capt. Brohier and some commanders in the country service and pilots were desired to take into consideration and report to the Select Committee the most effectual method for destroying an enemy's fleet in case an attempt should be made by them to enter into the river and attack the settlement. The report was given in to the Select Committee, and by them laid before the Board, the substance of which was that five boats should be prepared to be filled with combustibles in order to burn their ships in case they advanced up the river, that the pagoda at Ingelie should be washed black, the great tree at that place cut down and the buoys removed or their positions altered. The Master Attendant and Captain Brohier were accordingly ordered to purchase boats and materials for the above mentioned purpose and to prepare everything for the execution of the scheme in case of an enemy's fleet advancing up the river. A sloop was likewise ordered to lay at Ingelie to black the pagoda, cut down the tree, and the buoys were taken up, but in the month of June the buoys were ordered to be replaced and the sloop at Ingelie withdrawn, as we had certain information of the enemy's forces being landed on the Coast, and that our squadron was superior to theirs, which removed our apprehension of their coming directly to the Bay and rendered those precautions less necessary. The boats and combustibles were purchased before we received the above advice, and are now in the Company's stores.

12. We have already advised of the arrival of the *Hardwick*, Capt. John Samson, and of the dispatch of the *Mermaid* sloop to Fort St. George with the packet for that Presidency received per *Hardwick*. The *Mermaid* left Madrass the 18th October and is daily expected in the river.

13. Upon the application of Capt. Tedd we put on board the *Ilchester* as soon as she was off shore 200 tons of petre, as we have done likewise on

the *Worcester* and *Hardwick*, which will facilitate their dispatch upon their return.

14. In the month of March we requested the gentlemen at Madrass to inform us as early as possible how far they would be assisting in the dispatch of any of the ships to Europe this season and whether it would be agreeable to them to have one of the ships then in our river sent up in September with her charterparty redwood and salpêtre and 4 or 500 hales from hence to be filled up and finally dispatched from their Presidency. In answer to which they acquainted us they had altered the destination of the *Grantham*, Capt. Oliver, as they were in want of a vessell to carry home some advices of importance, and for tonnage for near 1800 hales they had in hand: instead therefore of dispatching her to Canton, they should send her directly to England in July or August with a compleat loading of hales. As by this information we found it unnecessary to station a ship to be filled up in September on the Coast, we purpose to have sent the *Ilchester* to Europe early in December with a compleat loading from hence, but the Select Committee having desired the Board to give the commanders of the three ships then in the river directions to obey their orders in an expedition to the southward, we acquiesced with their request as we were assured by them it would be of greatest importance to the Company's affairs to send a body of troops to Visagapatam which could not be effected without the Europe ships were permitted to transport them to that place. We are in hourly expectation of the arrival of two of them at least and shall proceed in loading them for England the moment they arrive in the river.

15. It being necessary to send two small vessells upon that expedition for the conveniency of landing the men and stores, we purchased the *Loo* and *Watson* sloops for that use, the Company's carpenters and Master Attendant having first surveyed them and reported to the Board their condition and value.

16. Captain John Tedd departed this life of a fever on the 22nd July and we have confirmed Mr. James Ward, late chief mate of the *Ilchester*, in the command of that ship.

17. On the arrival of Captn. James Barton the Board informed him of Your Honours' appointment of him to the office of Master Attendant and directed him to take the charge of the marine of this settlement as such which he accordingly did.

18. Sometime after he delivered in a letter to the Board with some proposals for the regulation of the dock head and a reduction of the expence of marine. Upon a due consideration of the said report (which is entered after our consultation of the 4th September) the Board were of opinion that most of the proposals were proper and that they would tend to the benefit of the Company and settlement in general. Captn. Barton was therefore directed to put them in execution with such alterations and amendment as the Board at that time made. We flatter ourselves that we shall be able to reduce this branch of the Company's expence still more when we come to take the particular parts of it more immediately into our consideration. We hope to acquaint Your Honors before the departure of the ships of this season the results of our examination.

19. The Company's sloop *Cuddalore*, Capt. Baker, being sent on a cruize of intelligence by the Governor and Council of Fort St. George, fell to leeward of that port on her return and put into Bengall, and the *Hunter* schooner arrived here the 23rd October from Madrass after a very tedious passage. Upon a representation from the Master Attendent concerning those two vessells we ordered the *Hunter* schooner to be sold at outcry and directed Capt. Barton to convert the *Cuddalore* sloop into a schooner.

20. The President and Council of Bombay wrote to us in April and May to supply them with 500 tonns petre. In consequence of this request we have sent 4000 baggs on the *Hardwick*, Capt. Matcham, and 2200 baggs on the *Bombay* frigate, Capt. Crichton. The remainder shall be forwarded by such other conveyances as may proceed to that Presidency.

21. In our letter of the 22nd October we acquainted Your Honours of the advices we had received concerning the quantity of surplus pepper there was likely to be at Fort Marlborough this season, and that we should dispatch two ships to that place to be filled up in case the annual ships of this season arrived in time. We have accordingly stationed the *London* to fill up with pepper at Bencoolen and should have made the same appointment of the *Warren*, if Capt. Glover had not informed us, it was necessary to heave her down, which will detain her too late in the season.

22. Since writing thus far the *Ilchester* imported from Vizagapatam. This ship we are now lading with bales and shall be able to dispatch her from hence the last week in December. We may likewise expect the *Worcester* in a very few days, as she was to return as soon as ever she had landed the cannon and military stores with which she and the *Hardwick* was sent to the southward of Vizagapatam.

23. As the *Warren* must come up to town and cannot on that account be dispatched to Bencoolen, we have determined upon sending her in January to Fort St. George to be filled up and finally dispatched to Europe from that Presidency.

24. We had determined before upon sending the *Worcester* to Bencoolen to fill up with pepper but as we esteem it of more importance to forward the investments from this place on the earliest conveyances, we shall on her arrival immediately proceed in lading her with the bales we have in our warehouse and hope to give the captain his dispatch by the 20 January. Instead of the *Worcester* we purpose to order one of the ships still expected from England to Fort Marlborough to take in the surplus pepper at that settlement if those ships arrive in time to be returned to Europe this season *via* Bencoolen.

25. The *Hardwick* will in like manner be returned in February with a compleat loading from this place, and we flatter ourselves with the hopes of being able to dispatch another ship from hence this season conformable to what we wrote Your Honours in our letter of the 22nd October.

26. Colonel Forde having recommended Capt. James Ward very strongly to the Board for his readiness in doing everything in his power to his satisfaction and for his good treatment of the officers and men who were passengers in his ship, we sent for Capt. Ward and in consequence of Colonel Forde's request returned him the thanks of this Board for his behaviour;

we beg leave likewise to mention him to Your Honours as a person very deserving your notice. We wish we could say as much of Captn. Samson whose behaviour is much complained of by Mr. Johnstone.

27. The requests and letters received from Capts. Tedd and Ward with the Master Attendant's reports and surveys of the *Ilchester* are transmitted in this packett under the numbers annexed to them in the list of the packett.

Secondly, of goods from Europe or from one part of India to another

28. Your Honours will find by our consultation of the 20th March that we have referred the deficiency of copper per *Grantham* and *Fox* to be settled between the Company and owners of those ships in Europe and that for the following reasons. The purser of the *Grantham* had objected on the bill of lading to the weight of the copper laden on that ship, and as Your Honours had accepted the bill upon those terms and had not wrote us anything concerning it we were of opinion that in justice we could not insist upon Captn. Oliver's paying for the deficiency, and therefore delivered up his bill of lading. Capt. Hume applied to us by letter to have the amount of his deficiency referred to Europe as the copper turned out right in tale, which we complied with, the short weight of it being but trifling.

29. By the enclosed account sales of broad cloth and copper made the 18th June you will observe those articles have sold at a very high price, particularly the copper and aurora broad cloth which are still in great demand; we must request therefore that our indents may be punctually complied with, as the Company will, we flatter ourselves, reap great benefit by their imports at this settlement in future.

30. Upon the arrival of the *London* and *Warren* we advertised a publick sale of broad cloth, lead and copper for the 27th December, what was sold in June being mostly cleared out.

31. As the ordinary broad cloth and perpets sold so very well at this place, we informed the President and Council of Fort St. George that they might send those sortments to us in case they found no vend for them at their own settlement, and shall in like manner advise the President and Council of Bombay.

32. We have given the strictest attention to prevent the clandestine importation of illicit commodities by the commanders and officers of your ships that the nature of the affair would admit of, by ordering all sloops and boats with private trade to be examined and inspected by the Import Warehouse Keeper or people employed by him, before the goods were suffered to be landed, with several other regulations of which we gave you advice in our letters of last season. Your Honours may depend on our using our utmost endeavours to prevent the commanders and officers of your ships from landing more than your permission and indulgence allows of and we hope the establishment of a Custom Master with warehouses for that purpose will more effectually put a stop to such practises.

33. The account remains of naval stores and indents for the same will not be ready to be transmitted by this ship but as the iron received last year sold

for a great profit and still continues in demand we are of opinion the quantity sent out annually might be increased.

34. We believe that a quantity of broad cloth, lead and copper would sell to advantage at Patna but as the risque of the passage to that factory is great and those articles went off at very high rates at our own sales in Calcutta, we thought it best to dispose of the whole at outcry; but whenever we find the demand for your imports lessen at this place, we shall immediately send part of what we receive up to Patna and make the tryal. We formerly designed of selling those articles at the marts and *aurungs* round us under the inspection of junior servants.

35. The copper invoiced for battery is variously marked, and though valued at the same rate in the invoices from Europe, bears very different prices in Calcutta; we request therefore that the quantities of each particular stamp may be noted in future in the invoice to facilitate the assorting of it here.

36. We beg leave in this place to repeat our complaint of the black velvet which for three or four years past has been entirely rotten.

37. All kinds of marine stores are wanted for the use of our sloops, which we desire to be amply supplied, but as the Company have a great stock of large anchors, we must here repeat what we last year requested, that no anchor larger than 10 or 11 cwt may be sent to this place till particularly indented for.

Thirdly, of investments

38. Our business continues to be carried on by *gomastahs* as has been practised for some years past, which method we observe with pleasure is so much approved of by Your Honours. You may rest assured of our being as carefull as possible to avoid having more money at the *aurungs* at one time than there may be occasion for, nor shall we be wanting in any endeavours to encourage the merchants to manufacture and bring into our *cottah* as large a quantity of ready money goods as we can prevail on them to provide, conformable to your orders. But we apprehend these inconveniences will always arise from having any considerable quantities of the Company's sortments of cloth made by the private merchants, that the prices will be enhanced at the *aurungs* on account of the multiplicity of purchasers, and the *gomastahs* employed for the Company will find it more difficult to compleat their orders unless they take indifferent goods.

39. An instance of this kind we have experienced this season, and have been obliged (on account of the number of *gomastahs* fixed at the *aurungs* by the Dutch, Armenians, and private merchants of this settlement) to permit our people to advance the weavers a trifle on their former prices and to be less strict in the prising of their cloth in order to procure the full of your orders. Our reasons for this step, with the Export Warehouse Keeper, his minute and letter to the Board on the occasion, Your Honours will find entered at large on our consultations of the 19 June and 3rd July to which we beg leave to be referred. Before the receipt of your commands of this season we had employed a *gomastah* to purchase *putney* at Radnagur and other *aurungs* in order to make a tryal of that silk, a small quantity of which will be forwarded on each of the ships this year; this sortment of silk being the kind which in your orders is

termed the *sannah* silk, and 150 bales directed to be provided and sent home, we have come to a resolution to send Mr. Hugh Watts to that *aurung* for the purchase of the *putney*, as he has been some years at Cossimbuzar and is well versed in that branch of business.

40. The provision of as large a proportion of our investment as possible within our own bounds is so desirable an object and we are sensible would be attended with so many advantages to our employers that we shall leave no means unessayed to effect it. The new acquisition of lands would admit of a great number of weavers, provided we could prevail on them to settle there, but we are apprehensive the lowness of the ground to the southward of Calcutta and the saltiness of the air will be great impediments to their coming, nor can the cloth be dressed to such advantage where the water is brackish. However, Your Honours may rely on our giving all the encouragement in our power to the weavers of the adjacent *aurungs* to become the Company's tenants.

41. By the account enclosed in this packett No. 38 is a statement of the sums of money we have sent up to each *aurung* this season and the account of goods already received from thence, what quantity of cloth is ready but not arrived in Calcutta, with the ballance of money and outstanding advances not collected in when the last advices came away.

42. Your orders in relation to sending annually a rotation of junior servants to reside at the cloth *aurungs* should have been complied with had we servants sufficient at this settlement to spare for such services; but as we have barely enough for the writing business in the several offices, we shall be obliged to postpone your orders till we have a greater number of junior servants.

43. We shall next proceed to recite the most material particulars of our correspondence with our subordinates, beginning with Cossimbuzar, to which factory Mr. Wilder went up in the beginning of March to put in execution your instructions to him in regard to the winding off the raw silk.

44. On the 16 of that month we received a letter from him on that subject wherein among other things he recommended that a sett of winders be constantly kept in the Company's pay and that a house be built on the Puddapar for the residence of a covenanted servant that the investments of silk made there might be conducted under the eye of an European and that he himself would go over for a short time in order to instruct the people in the method of winding of the Company's silk so as to prevent the frequent complaints of it from Europe.

45. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar having in their letter of the 12 March recommended the same measures as the most likely means of getting the Company's silk wound of agreeable to your repeated directions, we in reply to their letter permitted them to retain in the Company's pay such a number of winders as they judged proper and to build a bungalow on the Paddapar for the residence of a junior servant to make the silk investment there.

46. As Mr. Wilder came out with your orders to alter and amend the present method of winding off the silk produced in this country, and as it would have been very tedious and a great delay to their business for him to have made his representations first to the Board before he put his plans and designs in execution, we desired that gentleman to lay any proposal he have to offer on the subject of silk before the Council of Cossimbuza.

being on the spot, must be the best judges how far those proposals were practicable and would accordingly see them executed if it could be performed. At the same time we enjoined the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to give the strictest attention to Mr. Wilder's proposals and use their best endeavours to make the winders comply with his instructions and the methods he might recommend. We directed them likewise to give him all the assistance in their power whenever he should be in want of it, either from his ignorance of the language or any other account.

47. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar in a letter dated the 25 February informed us of their having taken your orders concerning that factory into their serious consideration, and that they esteemed the following methods for conducting their business might be followed with advantage to the Company. First, that three *gomastahs* be appointed for the provision of silk piece-goods. Next, that three others be sent to the *aurungs* where *gurrahs* are manufactured for the provision of that article. Thirdly, that either a warehouse be built at the Puddapar with proper conveniences for carrying on the silk business at that place, or that an order be procured from the Nabob to forbid any silk being wound off on that side of the river. In the same letter they acquainted us they had sent *gomastahs* for the provision of Rungpoor and Commercolly silk as likewise to the Puddapar for the *putney* of the Guzzerat and November Bund sortments, that the two former they had hopes of being able nearly to compleat, but were apprehensive they should fall short of the latter which was entirely owing to the scarcity of winders, to remove which complaint they proposed—1st, to endeavour to procure a *perwannah* from the Nabob to oblige the *surdars* to furnish them with such a number of winders as were employed at the time of the loss of their factory—2d, that an addition of two rupees per maund be given to the winders whose allowance at present was too small and 3d, that a *perwannah* be procured from the Nabob to forbid any *surdars* from employing winders at their own houses. These proposals they submitted to our considerations as the only means which, upon the strictest enquiry, had occurred to them for the recovery of that valuable branch of the Company's investment which they feared would fall unless some very effectual means were used to support it.

48. In our answer to the before mentioned letter we forbade the gentlemen of Cossimbuzar to make any application to the *darbar* concerning the silk winders, as we were apprehensive such an application just at that juncture might disgust the Nabob and make him imagine we were endeavouring to engross the whole trade of his country to ourselves. We permitted them to advance 2 rupees per maund to the winders to encourage them to work for the Company and gave them liberty (as we have before observed) to build a bungalow on the Puddapar for carrying on the business there under the inspection of a covenanted servant. The method they proposed of procuring their investment of *gurrahs* and silk piece goods by means of *gomastahs* was so conformable to Your Honours' orders and our own practice, that we could not but greatly approve of it and accordingly directed them to put that plan in execution.

49. As we had disapproved of any publick application to the *darbar* for a *perwannah* to interdict the *surdars* from winding off silk at their own houses, the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar in concurrence with the Dutch factory, and

the principal merchants of the place, have entered into a general agreement signed by all parties "That none should in future give any silk to be wound off by the *suraars* at their own houses," which agreement they have hopes will produce the desired effect and enable them to procure a sufficient number of winders for the Company's investment.

50. In a letter of the 6th June the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar informed us that the *putney* received from the late Nabob Suraj ud Dowla was on account of the agreement abovementioned returned by the *surdars* on their hands, and it being impossible to attempt the winding it off without causing a total desertion of their winders, they requested our directions what to do with it and whether they should dispose of it at outcry, it being unfit for the Company's use; in answer to which we directed them to get it wound off fit for private trade if it was found impracticable to wind it off properly for Europe; but that if it could not be done without impeding the business of the present year we ordered them to send the *putney* down to Calcutta; but soon after we countermanded the sending of it to Calcutta, as we were convinced it would not sell here for anything, the *putney* being old and a sortment that winders of this place are not used to, for which reasons we ordered the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar to sell it there at outcry if it could not be wound off fit for private trade. It has accordingly been sold and the amount brought to credit at that factory.

51. The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar having pressed us frequently for supplies of treasure they were directed by the Board in August to send us an estimate of the quantity of goods we might expect from that factory this season. To which they replied that it was impossible for them to send us an exact estimate of the investment they should be able to make this year, but in general they informed us that they should be able to compleat their orders for *gurrahs* and silk piece-goods, but should fall greatly short in the silk.

52. In a letter of 30 August they observed to us that the silk piece-goods dispatched some days before were good in general, and particularly the *lungee romals* which they could with justice say are superior to any sent for many years, that they flatter themselves likewise the silk will be more favourably received by Your Honours than what was formerly sent, as the evils so much complained of are in some measure rectified, but should that nevertheless not be quite compleat in that respect, they assure us it does not proceed from any inattention or want of diligence in them.

53. Under date the 14 July the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar acquainted us that upon examining the accounts of Kissenundah, the Company's *gomastah*, they had found great reason to suspect him guilty of several frauds in the management of the investments, that they had already detected him in giving in false accounts for the year 1756, in which he had overcharged 8427 Rs. in the real cost of the goods provided by him, that they were then upon a strict scrutiny into his accounts for the last year, of the result of which they should afterwards advise us, but that in the meantime as they had discovered sufficient to prove him unfit for the trust hitherto reposed in him, they requested our orders in what manner they should act for the getting in the remaining part of the investment, that they were afraid to take charge of it into their own hands would cause great confusion in their accounts and render their investment greatly defective, and to continue Kissenundah in his employ till the

end of the season might prove a great prejudice to the Company; they repeated their request therefore for our orders how to act.

54. In our reply to that letter we left it to them to act in such a manner as they might judge most conducive to the two great ends, viz., to be carefull the Company's money was not embezzled, or their employers defrauded by false accounts, and that their investments might not be defective either in quality or quantity. What measure would best effect those ends, we could not be such good judges of as they who were on the spot, for which reason we left them at liberty to do as they thought proper.

55. We have nothing to add concerning this factory, but that we have supplied it this year from time to time with 9,23,353-12-9 current rupees and 5 gold mohurs for carrying on their investment and other uses.

56. We have but little to say of the business of our other subordinates which has been conducted by the respective gentlemen at each of them without any very material circumstances to take notice of, particularly at Daeca, Luckypore and Ballasore. The investments from the two first of those factories are very satisfactory and we doubt not will meet Your Honours' approbation.

57. The Chaundpoor cloth has been this year provided partly at Dacca and partly at Luckypore but as this method is found inconvenient and tends to enhancing the price, we have directed the gentlemen at Dacca to provide the whole the ensuing season and have forbid our servants at Luckypore interfering with the Chaundpoor *aurung*.

58. The *sannoës* this year are in our opinion inferior to what were provided some seasons past and we have accordingly pointed out the defects to Mr. Playdell and have directed him not only to amend the fabrick but to get the weavers to deliver more of the upper letters, even if he is obliged to advance a trifle in the price to induce them to do so.

59. Conformable to your directions we shall send no brown superfine *sannoës* to the Coast to be chintzed and have returned what had been provided for that use (before the receipt of your orders) to be dressed.

60. In our letter of the 22d Oetober we acquainted Your Honors of the *perwannah* we had obtained of the Nabob for the sole purchase of petre in the province of Bahar, which has been a very considerable benefit to our employers, as we shall by that means not only secure a sufficient quantity for the Company's several uses at a very low price, but shall get a large profit on the surplus quantity we propose to spare the Dutch Company, and will make the Patna factory prove one of the most profitable establishment in these provinces.

61. The cloth manufactured at that factory will likewise be procurable on much more reasonable terms than we have been able to get it for some years past. We have recommended it to Mr. Amyatt and his Council to exert themselves in that branch of their business, and have hopes they will be able to send down a good investment of cloth the ensuing season.

62. In the list of goods to be provided in Bengal, transmitted per *Warren* and *London*, Your Honours have forbid our sending home any Patna *baftaes*. As we imagine that was owing to the high price formerly paid for that

sortment, we have directed the gentlemen at Patna to send us musters of their *baftaes* and to inform us of the lowest prices they can procure them for. If we find they turn out anything reasonable we purpose to continue sending home the usual quantity till we receive your further orders on that head.

63. Those factorys have been supplied in money and bills with the following sums annexed to their respective names for the provision of their investments and other uses viz.,

Patna with rupees current	2,12,432-14
Dacca with rupees current	4,67,050- 0
Luckypore with rupees current	32,775- 0
Ballasore with rupees current	75,330- 0
and 100 gold mohurs.	

*Fourthly, of the trade of India and transactions with the
Country Government, and Europeans settled in India*

64. Your Honours were informed last season by the Select Committee of the march of our army to the northward with the Nabob and his forces in order to secure the province of Bahar, and prevent any inroads from the neighbouring princes. It remains for us to acquaint you of the success of that expedition which produced all the good consequences we could wish for, as it reconciled Ramnarain, the Patna Subah, and Jaffier Ally Cawn, secured him in the Nabob's interest, quieted the disturbances in Poorneah, and deterred the Nabob of Oude from attempting any thing against the peace and tranquillity of this kingdom.

65. As soon as ever the mutual jealousies subsisting between the Nabob and Ramuarain were happily accommodated by the Colonel's influence and mediation and the government of Patna confirmed on Ramnarain, the army returned from thence and were quartered at Sydavad, where part of our troops still remain.

66. While the army was in the neighbourhood of Patna Mr. Amyatt and his Council requested Colonel Clive would apply to the Nabob to grant the Company an exclusive *perwannah* for the purchase of petre on the same terms as Coja Wazeed had enjoyed it for some years past, which *perwannah* Colonel Clive obtained of the Nabob with great difficulty, as he imagined it would be perpetually the grant if given in the Company's name, and we have reason to believe that nothing but his fear of the English and the assistance he might have occasion to demand of us (in case of any exigency) induced him to comply with our petition for that grant. The Company are to pay annually to the Nabob 15,000 Rs. and to Ramnarain 10,000 Rs. for this exclusive privilege and are to supply the Nabob with 20,000 maunds of petre on the same terms as we buy it for.

67. The advantages of having this exclusive privilege in our hands are so many and so apparent, that we think it would be needless to say a great deal upon that head. We shall however beg leave to point out two or three that appear to us of the utmost importance. First, the Company by virtue of this *perwannah* will always be secure of a sufficient quantity of petre at a very moderate price for their homeward bound shipping and the uses of their other Presidencies. Next, it will prevent the French from being supplied with

this article by Danish vessells, as we shall take care to dispose of none of the surplus quantity, which we shall sell to the Dutch and our own country shipping at the market price of it in Calcutta.

68. Your Honours will observe that upon obtaining this exclusive privilege of purchasing petre in Bahar, the Dutch Chief and his Council at Patna took upon them to protest against Colonel Clive and Mr. Amyatt for the damage their Company might suffer by being deprived of the liberty of buying their petre in that province as usual. This protest being delivered to Mr. Amyatt and by him returned again to them, the Director and Council at Hughley transmitted us a copy of it, seconded by a kind of protest from themselves on the same occasion, which we replied to, by acquainting them we had done nothing new in procuring this *perwannah*, Coja Wajeed having held it on the same terms for many years before; that the Dutch themselves had endeavoured last year not only to obtain a grant for the sole purchase of petre, but of opium too, that we knew of no treaty subsisting between His Brittanick Majesty and the States General which was infringed by this indulgence of the Subah's to our employers, and that it is plain they did not imagine it would be any infraction of treatys if the Nabob had acquiesced with their request for the same exclusive privilege.

69. In our letters of last year you were advised of the recommendation of the Select Committee to make a fortification on Burrumpoor plains, and keep a garrison there. As the Board approved of that system and intended to have put it in execution, Mr. Scrafton (who resided at Moraudbaug and transacted the Company's affairs at the *durbar* in the absence of the Colonel and Mr. Watts) was directed to procure a *perwannah* for the ground thereabouts and a *sunnud* to fortify upon that spot if we thought proper. Both the *purwannah* and *sunnud* for fortifying were obtained in the month of March and are entered in our consultation of the 6th of that month and the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar were ordered to purchase materials for making a factory there, but in July last those orders were countermanded as the fortifications at Calcutta required our principal attention and Capn. Brohier could not be spared to supervise the works at Cossimbuzar.

70. Your Honours having in your commands of the 8th March disapproved of our erecting any fortifications up the country, we shall in consequence of those orders desist in our design for fortifying Burrumpoor till your further pleasure is known, taking the liberty at the same time to offer you our sentiments on that subject without reserve. We must then in the first place observe that there can be little or no confidence put on these country people, and although the present Subah may be extremely well-attached to the English from motives of gratitude and from a sense of his own interest being so connected with ours that they are inseparable, yet his successor may perhaps entertain very different sentiments and even be led to believe that it would be for his honour and advantage to lessen our power and influence in the country. In such a case, a strong fortification, well garrisoned so near his capital as Burrumpoor, would be an invincible obstacle to his attempting anything that might prove destructive to the Company's interest, as it would not be possible for him to make preparations or to take any steps which the gentlemen at that factory would not receive immediate advice of and consequently have it in their power to put a stop to and check any measures that

might be forming at the *darbar* to molest our trade or settlement. In the next place we are of opinion it will be a means of preserving the tranquillity of the country and keeping it free of intestine disturbances. It will likewise prevent any malecontents in the city from attempting to destroy the Subah, a practise too common in the eastern world, and always attended with confusion and interruption to the trade of the country. The protection it may afford the Nabob in case his capital should be attacked by a foreign power is a further, and not the least, utility of such a fortification, and lastly, we think it would very much conduce to the maintaining our present influence at the *darbar*, a circumstance of so much consequence to the Company's trade and interest in these provinces that it should at all events be preserved.

71. Having delivered our opinion of the building a fortification and keeping a garrison at Burrumpoor, we leave it to you to determine on it as you judge proper and shall follow your directions thereon in answer to this address, observing to Your Honours that when we speak of a fortification we do not intend a work of such extent and strength as that carrying on at Calcutta, but one that may be compleated for a very trifling expence, and yet be sufficient to resist any attempts of the Moors to take it.

72. You were informed last season by our Select Committee of the receipt of the *amulnomma* for the lands to be held by the Company as a *zemindarry*, and that Mr. Frankland had been ordered on a circuit round those grounds, with directions to take possession of the same in the Company's name, and to plant our colours at the villages and marketts in his progress. The result of his enquiries and our further proceedings will be given in full under the head of revenues. In this place we shall only mention that it being strongly recommended by that gentleman to endeavour to procure the *zemindarry* of the grounds to the northward of Calcutta as high as Banquebazar, Mr. Hastings (who resides at Moraudbaug in the same capacity Mr. Srafton did) was directed by us to endeavour to get the Nabob to include the lands to the northward of Calcutta in his *sumnud*, which, by his letter of the 1st December he informs us, is at last and after much difficulty settled and adjusted and the ground betwixt Banquebazar and Calcutta declared to belong to the English. But notwithstanding this intelligence we shall not esteem it secure till the *sumnud* has passed the forms and is sealed. When we receive the grant properly authenticated we shall acquaint Your Honours of the advantages we expect will accrue to the Company from the possession of those lands. A tract of land to the north east of Calcutta belonging to the *pergunnah* of Annerpoor has been, likewise, applied for in order to square the Companies boundaries, which Mr. Hastings in his foregoing letter gives us hopes he shall be able to include in the *sumnud*.

73. Before we quit this subject it may be proper to take notice that after writing the above we received a letter from Mr. Hastings dated the 6th December acquainting us that, upon his pressing the Nabob to confirm and order a *sumnud* for the Company's lands, he started some objections to passing the grant alledging that the lands obtained by the Company greatly exceeded his agreement, that he knew of no limits agreed upon and that he had only promised to grant the Company a tract of land the revenues whereof should amount to a laak of rupees and if it was otherwise expressed in the treaty it was owing to the treachery of Roydoolab who had deceived him in it. That

he made at the same time some objection to the addition of Annerpoor to the Company's *zemidarree* and offered instead thereof to give them the *waddadarree* of that *pergunnah*. But in the sequel of Mr. Hastings his letter we have the pleasure to learn that the Nabob's objections were removed by the intervention of the *Royran* and *Rajabullhub*, who had both manifested very zealously their attachment to the English, that the Nabob had not only quitted his pretensions but ordered the *Royran* to draw up the *sunnud*, in the terms already agreed upon, which was begun, and he hoped in 2 or 3 days would be finished, but that he had been obliged to drop the affair of the Annerpoor *pergunnah* to prevent the *sunnuks* being delayed, the Nabob not seeming yet inclineable to allow of that grant and being only willing to give the Company the *wada* or farm of that *pergunnah*.

74. We shall now make a recital of our transactions relative to the moneys due from the Government, account the treaty made with the present Nabob, and shall begin with the sales of jewells, cloth and gold received in part payment. Such of the cloth as was fit for the Company's use was taken on their account at the valuation we received it from the Nabob and sent home by last year's shipping. The rest has been sold at outcry of which we gave publick notice two months before the sales. The jewells were likewise advertised for sale two or three months before the day of the outcry which begun the 15th June. We even gave notice of it to the President and Council of Fort St. George, that they might advertise our intention to the inhabitants of that place. The account sale both of the jewells and of the Muxadavad cloth is entered after our consultations of the 14 August, by which there appears a loss on the former of current rupees . . . or about . . . per cent, and on the latter of current rupees 33,782-0-9 or 14 per cent. The gold has been sold out of the treasury at different times and at different prices and a nett gain of current rupees . . . gott by that article. The several funds concerned in the above have been debited and credited for their proportions of loss and gain as before set forth.

75. By a perusal of Mr. Scrafton's letters received in January and February last Your Honours will find that he requested our permission to take bills on sundry persons at Dacca and Luckypoor in favour of the gentlemen at those factorys for such sums of money as the Government were desirous of giving drafts for, in part of the 1st sixth of the moiety then due from them account the treaty, which he assured us there would be no risk in accepting, as the bills would be drawn upon responsible people, that it would oblige the Nabob and facilitate the payments then making, which would be delayed in case we insisted on ready money. We assented to this proposal, and ordered him to take bills on responsible people at Dacca and Luckypore in favour of the gentlemen settled at those factorys as we knew they would be in want of money for carrying on their business and the risk of sending it up by water carriage would by this means be saved. The amount of bills drawn upon Dacca was *sicca* rupees . . . and upon Luckypore for *sicca* Rs . . . the whole or at least the greatest part of which has been punctually discharged by those the bills were drawn upon.

76. A *tuncaw* being given by the Nabob on the *Phowsdar* of Hughley for about 5 laak of rupees, and the latter refusing the payment thereof, the Colonel and Mr. Watts laid the affair before the Nabob and desired payment

of that money by some means or other. It was accordingly settled by a *tuncaw* on Ramnarain for 200,000 rupees and a promise of discharging the rest out of the treasury on the return of the troops to Muxadavad. The amount of Ramnarain's *tuncaw* was paid at different times to the gentlemen at Patna and the remaining 300,000 rupees received in specie at Muxadavad.

77. Upon this subject we have only to add that the first year's payment has been settled by the Nabob and most part of the money for which *tuncaws* were given us received. We have received *tuncaws* likewise on the Rajahs of Burdwan and Nuddeah and on the *Phowsdar* of Hughley for the two thirds still due of the second moiety which there is not the least doubt of our being punctually paid; the *kisty bund* or monthly payments are settled and obligations given for the performance conformable to those *kistybunds*; Omichund and his heirs being security for the Nuddeah Rajah whose credit was not altogether so good as the other two. Our translate of their *kistybunds* and of Omichund's security is entered after our consultation of the 30th November.

78. As we were of opinion it was too troublesome a task for an European to collect in the payments amount the *tuncaws* given us by the Nabob and being willing likewise to get the moneys on the account brought by the rajahs immediately to Hughley without being sent to Muxadavad, we appointed Nundacomar¹ on the 19th August *tussuldar* on behalf of the Company, he being recommended by the Select Committee as a person greatly attached to the English and very capable of the employ we had appointed him to. His business is to call upon the rajahs for the payments conformable to the *kistybunds* they have signed to and, when any considerable sum is received from them, to pay it into the treasury, and in order to give him greater weight and influence with the rajahs and zemindars, we have procured a *perwannah* from the Nabob empowering him to settle with the rajahs etc., for the amount of their *tuncaws* to the Company. We hope this method will have a good effect and be a means of collecting in the money from those people without trouble and disputes.

79. In order to give Your Honours a distinct view of the Nabob's account we have enclosed a statement in this packet or account current between the Nabob and Company, in which he is debited for the whole of the donations specified in his treaty, and credited for whatever has been received in money, goods, jewels, gold, bills and *tuncaws*, by which statement Your Honours will perceive what remains to be received, for which ballance, as we before observed, *tuncaws* are given on the Rajahs of Burdwan and Nuddeah and the *Phowsdar* of Hughley. By the latter ships of this season we shall transmit you a statement of what payments may be received into the treasury on account those *tuncaws* at the departure of those ships, when we flatter ourselves we shall be able to advise Your Honours that greatest part of the second third of the moiety (now paying off) is discharged.

80. In this place we beg leave to apologize for a transaction of which you were made acquainted in our General letter per *Marlborough* viz., the advance of twenty laak of rupees to the navy and army for their moiety of the money then due to them by virtue of the Subah's gift. But as the motives which prompted the Board to make that advance were not so fully stated as they ought to have been, and as our assent to that proposal will probably appear

to Your Honours a very indiscreet step, we shall herein recite the particular circumstances which swayed us to comply with the urgent request of the Admiral and the navy commanders, and rely on your excuse of that affair, should our proceeding in it appear any way blameable and precipitate. It must then be remembered that the time this proposal came from the Admiral and commanders of the squadron we were alarmed with reports which seemed to be well grounded that the French were in expectation of a large force from Europe. If that force arrived in India it was evident the Company's possessions in all parts would be endangered but those in Bengal more than any of the rest because of the defenceless condition of our works and the weakness of our military strength which had been excessively reduced through sickness and casualties. Our whole dependance therefore was in the assistance of the squadron, and if the commanders of that squadron had been disgusted by our refusal the consequences might have been very dangerous to the Company's interest. Before we returned the Admiral any positive answer to his request we received the certain intelligence that a French fleet had put in and landed a large body of men at Pondicherry and that six of their ships were actually sailed to the northward. We leave it to Your Honours to judge whether under such circumstances it would have been prudent to have disgusted not only the commanders but the inferior officers and private men of the squadron, who were all made to think that it was but reasonable the Governor and Council should advance their proportion of the moiety (then due from the Nabob) on account of their singular services in retaking Fort William and giving up all title to the effects found therein. The Board however took no notice of the Admiral's first application, but a second letter being wrote then to the same purpose they were under a necessity of giving some answer, and for the reasons above mentioned, added to the great risque the Company would have at this settlement by so much ready money laying in the treasury, which would be utterly lost in case the place fell into the enemy's hands, we agreed to offer the navy and army twenty laaks of rupees for the moiety of their donations then due from the Nabob. As the Company would by this means have had a claim on the Subah of these provinces, even should the settlement be lost, we judged the making of such an advance would be attended with no extraordinary risque, but rather secure the Company so much money in case of an accident, for on one side had the money laid in the treasury and the place had fallen into the hands of the enemy the whole was lost without a possibility of recovering it, while on the other hand an assignment from the navy and army on the Government for the moiety at that time due to them would have been a valid demand and might have been claimed and probably recovered from the Subah whenever the English were settled again in these provinces, provided a sufficient number of troops were sent to enforce the demand.

81. Your Honours will find by a reference to our consultations in October 1757 that they not only refused this offer of ours, but in their letters treated the Board in a manner very unbecoming either themselves or us; finding our offer as before mentioned (with a further proposal to refer it to the Company to allow them more if thought reasonable so to do) was not at all acceptable, and being very apprehensive of the consequence of giving offence to those on whom our safety at that juncture depended so much, we left it to them to propose their own terms which (in the circumstances we

were then under) we must have acquiesced with, but this offer was likewise rejected with great tartness of expression and indecency of stile, whereupon all correspondence upon that point was dropt for a time and would never have been revived by us, but their agents attending the Board to settle the amount of their proportion of jewells, gold and cloth received of the Nabob once more started the subject of an advance for the moiety at that time due to the navy and army, and as they had authority from their principals to accept of our former proposal of 20 laaks, we assented for the reasons before recited to make them the advance of twenty laaks of such rupees as we had received from Muxadavad in full for their moiety of the Nabob's donation without any reference to Europe for a further payment on that account.

82. Though we will not pretend to vindicate our conduct in this transaction from the censure of indiscretion, yet we flatter ourselves the motives which urged our compliance will be some extenuation of the fault, being solely guided by our regard for the interest and welfare of our employers and for the preservation of their valuable acquisitions in these provinces. And we have now the pleasure to inform Your Honours that the Company will soon be reimbursed that advance to the navy and army and if the country remains in its present tranquil condition (which we have not the least reason to doubt) they will benefit between six and seven laak of rupees by that agreement.

83. You were informed last year of the directions we had given Mr. Scrafton to apply for the *zemindarry* of the Luckypore *pergunnah* and our reasons for so doing. A *sunnud* has accordingly been obtained for that *pergunnah* which contains 237 *connys* of ground, of 300 *covids* large and 250 broad, agreeable to a measure made by the gentlemen at that factory, which yields an annual revenue of rupees 2755 according to the present rents paid by the farmers and riotts. Exclusive of the above ground they have about 700 *connys* more in jungul which they expect will be entirely cleared and settled with inhabitants by the next season, but as this is done at the expence of the riotts themselves the gentlemen at Luckypore have indulged them in giving up their rents for two years. They inform us the Company will reap a benefit by their nearest computation by the ground rent alone of upwards of 10,000 rupees per annum when the jungul is entirely cleared away and the ground cultivated. They further acquaint us that in order to encourage the weavers to settle in the Company's bounds they have stated their ground rent at a more moderate price than is paid in other parts of the country round them, the good effects of which they have already experienced by a great number of weavers coming into their districts; and they give us hopes that in a season or two the greatest part of the investment at that factory will be manufactured within their own bounds. These advantages are very material and deserve our utmost attention which we shall never be wanting in and we flatter ourselves the factory of Luckypore will in a small time prove a very beneficial and advantageous settlement to the Company.

84. Your Honours having recommended a settlement at Chittigong, we shall take a favourable opportunity to mention it to the Nabob and apply for permission to hoist our flag there which we imagine will meet with no opposition. Indeed we have some reason to think that the whole province would be put into our hands on condition of paying the Nabob his present revenue and keeping some armed vessells to cruize and prevent the inroads

of the Muggles who annually infest those parts in boats and do a great deal of damage by pillaging the villages and towns and plundering all boats and vessels that fall in their way. When Mr. Manningham arrives at Muxadavad he will sound the Nabob upon this subject and if he finds him inclineable to give us the care of that province upon the above terms, and we are well assured any considerable advantages might be made of it for our employers, we shall apply for the grant and send such servants and military there as may be judged proper for the purposes we aim at, being carefull to put the Company to as little unnecessary expence as possible. Of our proceedings herein we shall advise more fully when the affair is more maturely considered and brought nearer to the period of its being put in execution.

85. A Dutch vessell in the month of May foundering in Ballasore road the master of her pretended the ship was lost for want of any pilots being in the road which he deposed before the Council at Hughley who addressed the Board upon the subject and transmitted them a protest from the owners of the ship with an estimate of the damage sustained by her loss, desiring us to reimburse them that sum, as the vessell was actually lost by means of the restraint we had laid their pilots and sloops under of not going into the road. As this pretence appeared to us very frivolous, when we had a sloop or two of ours in the road, the pilots of which had directions to bring in Dutch ships upon the same terms as our own, and as we had made the Director and Council at Hughley an offer of taking two or three Dutch pilots on board of our sloops in case they did not think fit to entrust those in our service with the care of their ships which they had declined accepting, we could not look upon the Company to be answerable for the accident which had happened to the ship already mentioned or for any consequence of the same kind which might happen in future, as it was entirely owing to their own obstinacy in not accepting of the above offer; this we acquainted them in our answer to their letter. Sometime after they made a second application for redress which being referred to the Select Committee, Mr. Alexr. Scott, the pilot (who was in Ballasore road at the time the Dutch ship was lost), was examined and declared that he lay in the proper channel for all vessels coming in and that if the ship in question had steered a proper course she could not have missed the pilot sloop. This deposition was transmitted by our Select Committee to the Director and Council at Hughley with a further observation that the master of the ship when in the English service made it a common practice to bring in the vessels he commanded without taking any pilot on board, which circumstance made it very probable he had acted in the same manner in the present instance and therefore was himself responsible for the consequences.

86. The Director and Council at Hughley not being satisfied returned in answer to that letter of the Committee about ten depositions from the master and crew of the *St. Anne* in confutation of what Mr. Scott had advanced of not seeing the ship, and in the latter part of their letter very peremptorily informed us they should proceed against us conformable to the law of the Netherlands and demanded our appearance or some one authorized by us to answer to the charge of the owners of the *St. Anne* before the judge to whom the cognizance of such matters belonged, the whole amount of the damage being valued at 34000 rupees. This manner of treating the Board we esteemed so derogatory of the respect due to the Governour and Council

of this settlement that we returned their letter and depositions without any other reply than our sentiments of their behaviour, and that as we could not on any account look upon our employers as responsible for the loss of the ship *St. Anne* we should waive all further dispute and correspondence on that subject. Thus ended this affair, and we hope Your Honours will approve of our resolution not to admit of any claim on the Company for that loss, as it was owing to no want of care in us, the Board having stationed two sloops in the road with directions to the pilots on board to take charge of and bring in Dutch ships and vessels on the same terms as those of our nation.

87. We have already taken notice of an expedition being set on foot to the southward, the inducements to which you will be particularly informed of by the Select Committee. We shall only mention in this place that a ship being wanted for the transportation of part of the troops ordered on that expedition, and the owners of the *Thames* offering to carry as many as the ships would accomodate, provided the Company would disburse the expences of the ships, we accepted of the terms as extremely reasonable, and have ordered payment of Captain Wedderburn's bill of charges amounting to current rupees 10169-13-3.

88. We come now to speak of the visit paid the President by the Subah of these provinces, an honor no European settled here ever received before, and as it has been attended with all the good consequences we could wish to reap from such a circumstance, it will, we flatter ourselves, reconcile Your Honors to the expence and charge it has put this Company to, which are greatly outweighed by the many advantages the Company's affairs have and will continue to feel from the good understanding this visit has established between the Nabob and the English. As the expence we have been at on this occasion may appear unnecessary unless the advantages apparently overballance the charge, we shall point out a few of those advantages to your observation, from which Your Honors will, we flatter ourselves, concur in opinion with us of the eligibility of getting the Subah to consent to this condescension.

89. We shall begin by mentioning that our enemies had endeavoured to sow the seeds of diffidence in the Nabob's breast by making him believe we were not his real friends, and that we only waited for a favourable opportunity to remove him and set up another, and so far had this opinion prevailed in the *darbar* that most of the Nabob's counsellors (and his son in particular) were extremely averse to his putting himself in our power by coming to Calcutta, and had not Mr. Watts and Aumiberg [Umar Beg], the *Phowdsar* of Hughley, taken great pains to obviate the impression their apprehensions had made on the Nabob, we believe he would have declined the President's invitation. Upon his coming down and meeting with so polite a reception as he did, he perceived the malice of those who had endeavoured to alarm him against the English and was so well satisfied with our behaviour and deportment that he expressed himself in going away in the warmest terms of friendship and declared he should in future confide in the English even more than in his own children.

90. Another material consideration made it necessary to gain the Subah's entire confidence and friendship, for Monsr. Lally with a large force being arrived on the Coast, Fort St. David taken and an attack daily expected on

the Presidency of Madrass, the event of which might have been unfavourable to us, it was not to be doubted that Monsr. Lally would attempt to re-establish the French in this kingdom in case he had made himself master of the Coast; a great inducement to such an attempt would have been the reports that were industriously propagated of there being no cordiality or real good understanding between us and the Nabob. To convince our enemies therefore that reports of this kind were groundless, we prevailed on the Subah to give us this publick mark of his attachment to the English, and as our principal dependance must have been in the assistance of the country Government if the French had entered Bengal (our own strength being very insufficient to resist their force) we omitted no means to gain the Subah's esteem. We flatter ourselves we have fully succeeded in making him and his principal ministers our friends, which must totally disappoint any expectations our enemies might have entertained of being aided by the Government in their designs against our settlements in Bengal.

91. Securing of the Nabob's confidence and removing all cause of jealousy or disgust against the English was a material point and serviceable in many respects, as it not only damped the spirits of the French by taking away all hopes of fomenting a quarrel between the Nabob and us (a circumstance they eagerly wished for and expected) but strengthened also our influence and consequence in the country, prevented the confusion and troubles which an unhappy rupture between the Subah and his first minister Roydoolub might have been the occasion of, and gained us the friendship of the new minister who was not confirmed in his office till the Nabob arrived in Calcutta and consulted Colonel Clive. We have reason likewise to think it has been a great means of procuring the *sunnud* for the lands to the southward and northward of Calcutta which possibly would have been disputed and evaded if the *Royran* had not been in our interest. Many other good effects it may produce but we shall close the subject by observing that it was absolutely necessary at that time to make the Nabob our friend and convince him of our attachment to his person and Government, as the expedition to Golconda (which promised so many advantages and so much honour to the English) could not have been undertaken had there been the least expectation of a dispute with the Nabob on any account whatever.

92. Having said thus much of the Nabob's visit we beg leave to observe that the expence of it has been somewhat increased by the present we were under a necessity of making him of the house he lived in, which he was so pleased with and so desirous of having that we could not avoid presenting him with it and accordingly purchased it of Mr. Samuel Griffith (whose property it was) for the sum of 1500 Arcot rupees. It is now made use of for the residence of his ambassador when in Calcutta.

93. The Nabob, since his return to Muxadavad, having requested the loan of 2 laak of rupees; which he is greatly in want of, large arrears being due to his troops who are very clamorous and importunate, and Mr. Hastings informing us that the loan would very much oblige the Nabob and facilitate the confirmation of the *sunnud* for the lands to the southward and northward of Calcutta, we have agreed to lend him that sum, reserving to ourselves the rents and revenues of the lands the Company are to have the *zemindarry* of, as security for the payment. We hope Your Honors will not disapprove of

our making the Nabob such a loan, as there is not the least risque of the Company's being reimbursed.

94. The present Your Honours have sent out for the Nabob shall be forwarded up to Muxadavad in a few days, and we shall give directions to have it delivered in the politest manner.

95. The fortifications at Chandernagore have been long since demolished as well as the factory house and publick buildings, but we are of opinion it is unnecessary and impolitic to destroy the houses of the private inhabitants, as the French have never done it in any settlement they have taken from us and if we set the example we must expect they will treat us in the same manner should Fort William or any other principal place of ours fall into their hands in future. We think at least it would be necessary to suspend the execution till we see if the French or we are more likely to get the superiority on the Coast, which at present is something doubtfull.

96. We found it so difficult to lay the black inhabitants under any restrictions on their coming back to the place, or form any new regulations for their future residence under our protection which would not discourage their living among us, that we thought it best to drop the consideration of it entirely. We waved the attachment of Amichund's effects likewise, as we found it impossible to prove he had been directly concerned in involving the settlement in the troubles and disgrace we underwent.

97. We shall transmit a copy of the paragraph of your commands under date the 3d March to Admiral Pocock by the first opportunity.

98. Colonel Clive begs leave to mention in this place that he is extremely sensible of the honor done him by the General Court of Proprietors which will be a further incitement to him to excite his utmost efforts for their service and interest, to promote which has been his constant and zealous attention hitherto, and he assures Your Honours he shall always act with a pure and disinterested regard for the good of our honorable employers.

99. The Select Committee are writing to the Secret Committee in England and will inform them fully of what has been transacted with the country Government.

Fifthly of buildings, revenues and fortifications

100. Mr. Frankland as we have before observed being ordered to take possession of the lands agreeable to the *amulnuma* received from Muxadavad, he set out accordingly the 18 January and returning in June laid before the Committee of Lands an account of his circuit in a letter with all the particulars he had been able to collect and several remarks of his own thereon; copy of which letter and the statements made by him from the accounts he received of the zemindars are transmitted in this ship's packet to which we must refer Your Honors.

101. No. 49 is a general abstract of all the *pergunnahs* to the southward of Calcutta and points in a very circumstantial manner the quantity of ground contained in each of those *pergunnahs*, the number of villages, marketts, zemindars, and farmers, how much ground is assigned over to the Jintoo idols, to servants etc., what quantity lays barren and uncultivated, and the

nett number of *bighas* that pay rent to the zemindars. By which it appears that out of 816446 *bighas* the zemindars collect their rents on only 454804 *bighas*, the rest being either barren and untenanted or assigned over to servants, idols etc. The revenue produced by the ground paying rent amounts to rupees 554604-479 [sic] per annum, to which if we add the ground assigned over to idols and what lays untenanted (which in a few years will be cultivated and settled with riotts), the Company will be able to collect between nine and ten laak of rupees on the ground to the southward, computing the value of each *bighah* as is at present paid and supposing the *pergunnahs* contain no more than what the zemindars have given Mr. Frankland an account of, but this remains to be yet settled and will we flatter ourselves turn out more when a proper measurement is made of the whole which ought and must be effected, as the square covids in each *bighah* differ almost in every *pergunnah* as to the rents collected on them. We have great hopes likewise that by a proper management and encouragement the value of the grounds in our boundary will in a few years be enhanced and by that means the revenue thereof increased.

102. By the above abstract the revenues to be paid the Nabob for the southern lands amount to 215000 rupees or thereabouts, but as we have not entirely adjusted that point and are in hopes of settling it more to the Company's advantage, we cannot at present precisely ascertain what the gains of this *zemindarry* will amount to.

103. No. 50 is a general account current of the twenty two *pergunnahs* to the northward of Calcutta in which is clearly specified the rents and revenues paid the Nabob for the whole, what part thereof are impositions laid by the Subahs (which we are endeavouring to avoid paying) and the nett revenues brought to credit in the king's *sircarry* books, which by the treaty is to be paid by the Company and no more. The said account likewise particularizes the amount of rents of marketts etc., as lett out by the zemindars in the year 1757 to the farmers and riotts, what is kept in their own hands, the loss arising on the same by devastations which the zemindars themselves wrote off and did not collect, the amount of what had been collected by them for the year 1757 before we took possession and the ballance that remained in the hands of the *ejardars*, riotts etc., which they acknowledged and accounted for with Mr. Frankland.

104. The third statement in that paper points out the sum which by the date of the Nabob's *amulnumma* the zemindars ought to have paid the Company for the four months of the year 1757 which the Company have accounted for to Nabob; on the credit side whereof is entered the sum received from the *ezardars* and riotts and the balance due from the zemindar which we are under some apprehensions will be recovered with great difficulty, if at all, those zemindars being entirely ruined by the loss of their lands.

105. The above mentioned balance from the zemindars arises from their having collected before we took possession so much more than their proportion of 8 months amounted to, which was owing to the unequal collections made from the farmers and riotts, by a custom of the country, who do not pay a monthly proportion of their annual rents, but in some months a great deal more than in others. These payments are regulated according to the times of harvest, for which reason in the months of July, August, September,

October, November and December the largest collections of the year are made, and in February, March and April little or nothing paid by the farmers, that being a dead season of the year.

106. The revenues collected from the lands in the Company's *zemindarry* have formerly been much more considerable than they are at present, the rents having decreased for many years past owing to oppressions, impositions of burthensome taxes and such like reasons. The late calamity which befell this settlement contributed to diminish the revenues in a great degree, for by the *zemindars'* books it appears they were obliged to write off in the year 1756 the sum of rupees. . . . We flatter ourselves however that by lenity and adopting maxims the very reverse to those practised by the former possessors, the land will in a great measure recover, the inhabitants increase and with them the Company's revenues likewise.

107. The method we recommend of lenity and easing the tenants of oppressions and burthensome taxes will we are convinced be approved of by Your Honours, and is the most likely means of making this *zemindarry* a very valuable and important acquisition to the Company.

108. The *pergunnah* of Corry Jurie is a flagrant instance of what we have alledged. The extent of it is unknown and reaches as far as Gunga Saugur to the southward and the Sunderbunds to the east; the revenue it formerly yielded, we are informed from good authority, amounted to 40 laak of rupees but the greatest part of this *pergunnah* is now uncultivated, uninhabited and overgrown with jungle. The rents of it amount to no more than Rs. 2925-9-60 and we pay the Nabob only 562-8-. What improvement may hereafter be made in that *pergunnah*, how much of it recovered and cleared of jungul, with other particulars relating to it we cannot now inform Your Honours but we think there is a probability of its yielding a large revenue in a course of years with proper management.

109. Mr. Frankland finding the lands had been upon the decline and their rents annually decreasing, great part of the year likewise being elapsed before possession could be taken of the whole and the account procured from the *zemindars* (who were extreemly backward in delivering them), he judged it expedient to take obligations and security from the old farmers and *ezardars* to pay the Company the same rents for the ensuing year as they had paid the last year to the *zemindars*, and they have likewise obliged themselves to improve and cultivate the waste lands in their farms. The measure we approved of and confirmed as it secured us the same revenue as had been collected by the *zemindars* till a better knowledge could be obtained of their real value, which we are of opinion can only be procured by a particular measurement.

110. As the farmers, by virtue of the above mentioned obligations, are to hold their farms till the *Pooneah* or month of March, we have not as yet taken into consideration in what manner the lands shall in future be managed; we think however it would be adviseable to put up such grounds, towns and villages at outcry whose revenues are pretty near their real produce, and to farm them out to the best bidder for the term of one, two, or three years as we see convenient. But those grounds, towns and villages as are gone to decay and do not yield anything equal to what they formerly did (or even

so much as is paid for them to the Nabob) must be kept in the Company's hands for a little time till by lenity and other encouragements they are made to yield a proportionable rent to the rest of lands, which effected they may be sold in the same manner as the others.

111. The getting possession of these lands has been attended with a charge of near 50,000 rupees as it was necessary for Mr. Frankland to carry a great retinue and a large number of servants of all kinds. Add to this that the king's *connegoes* were maintained at our expence as well as the *gomastahs* and other servants belonging to the zemindars whose accounts we sent for. In the above sum about 5 or 6000 rupees is for dead stock such as tents, *cannauts etc.*, which are in the Company's stores; since the month of July the charges have decreased and upon a medium do not exceed 3700 rupees per month for the whole 22 *pergunnahs*.

112. We have the pleasure to advise Your Honours that the rents are paid in by the farmers and *ezardars* very punctually, the sum of 280,000 *sicca* rupees being already brought to credit in the treasury exclusive of all charges and that the tenants and inhabitants begin to increase.

113. Your Honours will observe by our consultation of the 6 March that we regulate the *choppermal* duty and that of the great bazar both which had been greatly complained of. In regard to the first we ordered that a duty of 2 per cent and no more should be collected on all piece-goods not imported by a *dustuck*. But as many of those piece-goods so imported were frequently exported again by shipping to foreign ports and a consulage of 2 per cent collected on their exportation, which double duty the Board esteeming a hardship, it was likewise ordered that the consulage in future should not be collected on such goods as had paid the *choppermal* duty. The duty of 2 per cent collected by the farmer of the great bazar we restrained to the natives and Armenians and to goods that were the produce of the country and not imported by a *dustuck*. All other goods imported by Europeans and which had not paid the country any former duty were ordered to pay the one per cent directed by your commands of the 11 February 1756.

114. As the farmer of the great bazar understood he was to have it on its usual terms when he purchased that farm, and our present regulation being a great prejudice to him, we permitted him to resign the purchase on his petitioning so to do and ordered the Zemindar to collect the dutys in that buzar for the Company.

115. It having been thought expedient, for getting a sufficient quantity of *chunam* for the use of our works, to forbid the selling that article to private persons, we permitted the farmer of that article to relinquish us his purchase, as he by petition to the Board complained of the hardship he laboured under from the above mentioned order which had been made subsequent to the sale of the farms.

116. On the 1st May the *arrack* farm was put up at outcry under certain restrictions and conditions which are entered at large after that day's consultation. Mr. Edward Handle purchased it for the sum of 4,000 current rupees per annum. Upon a representation some time after that it occasioned much prejudice to the military who were continually intoxicated with liquor after the setting up publick shops for the sale of *arrack*, we suppressed the license

given Mr. Handle, and forbid his distilling or selling any more or permitting others to do it. In case that farm is not confirmed to Mr. Handle, we shall take his case into consideration and make good the loss he may have suffered by suppressing his distilling after giving him a license for 3 years.

117. Conformable to Your Honours' orders for separating the post of Zemindar of this settlement we abolished that office on the receipt of the *Warren's* packett and appointed William Frankland Esqr. Collector of the rents and revenues with directions to follow the instructions and orders contained in your commands of the 8 March 1758.

118. We likewise ordered a publick advertisement to be affixed for the sale of such farms as Your Honours have not abolished on the 20 instant which we shall be able to advise you of more fully in the supplement of this letter.

119. In the 151, 152, 153, 154 and 155th paragraphs of your commands of the 3rd March 1758 you offer to our consideration methods similar to those practised at Bombay and Madrass for increasing the farms of tobacco, cocoanut trees, beetle and *arrack* at this settlement. Your Honours may rely on our carrying into execution your directions as far as lays in our power and encouraging the planting of cocoanuts, beetle and tobacco. The former we imagine may by proper management in a course of years yield a large revenue by throwing part of the new lands into plantations of cocoanuts, which we shall take under consideration and do the best we can for the Company's interest. The soil of our grounds we believe is not so proper for beetle and tobacco; if we find upon tryall that beetlenutt trees may be raised with advantage we shall not fail to plant them, but we are at a great loss in what manner to raise the tobacco farm to any thing near the sum it pays the Company at Bombay. Your Honours will find that it was the opinion of the committee (appointed to take those regulations into consideration) that it would be proper to abolish the salt and tobacco farms, and they are great essentials of life with these country people, and it would be a heavy grievance to the poor to continue those farms and collect the customs likewise on tobacco and salt. We shall however take care that no tobacco or salt is brought into the place without paying the duty of 4 per cent which will we believe bring in a very handsome revenue.

120. Your commands respecting the 4 per cent customs to be in future collected at this settlement on all exports and imports shall be carried into execution unless we find any apparent grievance result from it to the settlement and for the Company's interest, in which case we shall take the liberty to ease the merchants of that duty in part, being conscious your intention was not to distress or ruin the trade of this once flourishing colony which has been declining for many years, and possibly may not admit of such a heavy impost. We shall however be guided by no private views in a thing of this kind, nor deviate from your orders without being very clear that it would be a real injury to the colony and quite destroy the little remains of trade subsisting in it.

121. Captain Brohier last year transmitted Your Honours a plan of the citadel he had recommended to be erected for the defence of this settlement against an European enemy with an estimate of the expence it would amount

to. The works have been carried on entirely under his inspection and direction and are now in great forwardness, but it is impossible to say when they will be finished as they are very extensive and as a great part of it depends on the number of *cooleys* and tank diggers we shall be able to get.

122. In the month of September we called upon Captain Brohier to deliver in an estimate to the Board of the charges of the works to that time and a computation of what further sum it would cost to compleat the whole; which he accordingly laid before us on the 2nd October by which you will observe the whole expence of finishing the body of the citadel with its out-works will amount to between 21 and 22 laaks of rupees. A copy of the particulars of Captain Brohier's estimates and his letter on that occasion are forwarded in this packett to which we beg leave to refer.

123. Notwithstanding this expence may appear very large at first, yet we are not without hopes that the Company will in time be reimbursed a great part of it, as it is beyond all doubt that when the works are finished and a proper garrison kept up it will be able to resist the largest force that can be brought to the attack of it. This once known, the greatest part of the riches of the country will upon any change of affairs or sudden inroad of foreign enemys be brought to this fort as to a place of entire security, the proprietors whereof will be gläd to pay a duty to the Company for the protection granted them and their effects. Remote as the expectation of such reimbursements may at present appear, it is far from being illfounded and both reason and experience evince that peace and tranquility are not long to be depended on in this part of the world.

124. Captain Brohier having recommended an alteration in the method of paying the *cooleys* employed on the works, we acquiesced with his proposal and ordered that in future the people should be paid daily themselves without the intervention of *surdars*. As he complained of great delays in receiving the stores and materials from the Pay Master's people we appointed Mr. Charlton store keeper of the materials for the works with orders to give constant attendance and make immediate deliverys of the stores indented for by the Engineer.

125. The gentlemen at Luckypore having represented the necessity there was of digging a tank and building brick houses for dressing their cloth at that factory, as likewise of making a main road to several of their adjacent *aurungs*, and as the whole expence of doing this would not exceed 7 or 8,000 rupees, the Board permitted them to set about those works as soon as the season would permit, being convinced of the utility thereof in washing and dressing the cloth at that factory, which could not be bleached in some months of the year for want of fresh water.

126. We have purchased of the executors of Messrs Jenks and Reveley's estate a house belonging to those gentlemen at Cossimbuzar for the sum of 2000 *sicca* rupees for the residence of Mr. Wilder as we did not chuse to lay out any money in repairs upon the old factory at Cossimbuzar.

127. A convenient house being much wanted for the publick offices of this settlement and for holding of councils we have bought the dwelling house of the late Mr. Richard Court for the sum of current rupees 8,700 for the above mentioned purposes. We likewise purchased Mr. Drake's house for

the sum of 12,000 rupees to be used as an import warehouse when the old fort was clearing out to be converted into barracks for the military. Our reasons at full for this step Your Honours will find entered in our consultations of the 3rd July.

128. Captain Barton having represented to the Board that the Company were at a great expence for godowns to keep the marine stores, which might be saved by purchasing the house, now the property of Mr. Boddam, which had very spacious warehouses and was commodiously situated for his use, we agreed to buy it for the Company and paid him, Mr. Boddam, 12,000 Arcot rupees for the house and godowns. We have likewise permitted Captain Barton to build a range of godowns to the northward of that house to be made use of as banksauls for ship stores when refitting, and to be let out to country shipping when not in use for the company.

*Sixthly, of factors, writers,
military officers and their accounts*

129. You were advised in a short letter from the Select Committee by the *Elizabeth* that Colonel Forde had agreed to remain here as our Major upon our making him an advance of 5,000 £st, one moiety of which the attorney of Colonel Clive agreed to pay; but upon the Colonel's return from Patna he acquainted us that the Nabob had consented the Company should reimburse themselves the advance made to Major Forde out of the balance due to the Nabob, account the expences of the expedition to Bahar, which has accordingly been received and Colonel Clive repaid the money his attorneys paid on that account without his orders.

130. Agreeable to the promise made Colonel Forde that he should enjoy all the privileges, honours and emoluments annexed to the Majority of Fort William, we gave him a seat at our Board as third in Council on the spot and ordered the Buxey to pay him counsellor's allowances, and the Military Pay Master to pay 250 pounds per annum allowed by Your Honours. He had likewise the charge of one of the companies of foot on this establishment given him.

131. The military making frequent complaints of the injury they suffered by being paid in *sicca* rupees or having the *batta* between *sunnauts* and Madrass deducted in their pay, which the Pay Master had been obliged to do for two or three months for want of Arcot or Madrass rupees which were not procurable on any terms, we agreed in the month of March that they should in future be paid in *sunnaut* rupees without any deduction of *batta*, which would be attended with very little loss to the Company (the *batta* of that species being in April to be lowered to 11 per cent) and would take away all grounds for complaint in the military. As the Company's rate of *batta* on *sicca* in February and March was greatly higher than the bazar standard, we permitted the Military Pay Master to exchange the advances made him in those months into *sunnauts* at the bazar *batta* by which there accrues a small loss to the Company. This we assented to in order to quiet the military who would else have been very unsatisfied.

132. Lieutenants Joseph Adnett and Martin York of Colonel Adlercron's Regiment having consented to enter the Company's military service on this

establishment on the same terms as Captain Donnellan, they were promoted to companies, and had captain's commissions conferred on them dated prior to Captain Donnellan's whose seniors they had been in His Majesty's service.

133. When Colonel Forde received the Select Committee's letter requesting him to engage as many of the officers of the regiment to enter into our service as he could he had wrote to Lieutenant Powell and Ensign Bradbridge to come to the Bay who arrived on the *Hardwick*; the first being senior to Captain Adnett was promoted to a company and had a commission conferred on him dated prior to that gentleman's. Ensign Bradbridge being recommended to us as a good artillery officer of which we were in great want, we appointed him Captain Lieutenant of our train.

134. At the same time we gave Captain Lieutenant Dyer a company and appointed Ensign Edward Ford of Colonel Adlercron's Regiment captain lieutenant of the battalion on our establishment.

135. Upon the arrival of the *Hardwick* and the appointment of a President and Council from Europe we incorporated the officers and troops belonging to the Bombay and Madrass Detachments with those of our settlement, every officer ranking according to the date of his commission, of which we advised the other Presidencys and directed the Pay Master of the Madrass Detachment to lay his accounts before the Board and desist from any further payment of the troops. There being a sufficient number of bombardiers and matrosses in Bengal to form two artillery companys we appointed Captain William Jennings to the second company and Mr. James Mc Donald captain lieutenant thereof; the other lieutenants and fire workers were filled up out of such officers as we judged best qualified for the business of the train.

136. When we incorporated the Bombay and Madras Detachments we imagined that giving the officers the same rank they bore in their own detachments and regulating their precedency according to the dates of their respective commissions would have been satisfactory to all parties; but on the 28 August a memorial was sent into the Board signed by eleven captains complaining of many injuries which they had received in the service and in particular that of being superceded by Captain John Gouin who had been sent from Bombay upon the death of Captain Buchanan to take the command of their detachment without bringing any troops under his command and with a design, as they supposed, to be incorporated on this establishment and superceding all the officers in Bengal, to which memorial we ordered our Secretary to reply that we knew of no injuries they had ever received in our service, nor could we think they had any just grounds to be offended at the incorporation of Captain Gouin who was sent by the President and Council of Bombay to take the command of their detachment at a time they could know nothing of the intended incorporation, that the Presidency of Bombay had undoubtedly a right to send what officers they thought proper to their own detachment and that had they sent the youngest captain on the island they must have superceded every one of those upon our establishment; that we could not look upon the incorporation of Captain Gouin in the same light they did and therefore could not without putting an affront on the Governor and Council of Bombay make any exceptions to receiving him on our establishment.

137. This reply not being satisfactory to some of those officers, six of them sent in a letter to the Board on the 31 August and desired our permission to resign the commissions they bore in the Company's service which we assented to and promoted in their stead Lieutenants Ford, Knox, Champion and Tocoher to companies on this establishment, having first reduced the number of companies from 18 to 14 which has lessened the military expence and is a sufficient number for our troops.

138. Captain Alexander Grant likewise on the 28 August desired our permission to resign his commission as did Captain Tom Lewis likewise on the 31 of that month; their reasons for so doing will be seen by a reference to their respective letters entered after the consultations above mentioned.

139. On the 14 September Captain Paschoud who commanded one of the companies of artillery desired leave to resign his commission and return to Europe where his affairs necessitated him to go; having permitted him to resign we gave his vacant company to Captain Lieutenant Bradbridge.

140. Captains Palmer, Flaction and Scotney have likewise resigned the commissions they bore in the Company's service, the first on account of his affairs which obliged him to return to Europe, the other two on account of some hardships and injuries they alledged they had received in their military capacity.

141. Upon the incorporation of the troops Captain George Frederick Gaupp, who commanded the company of Swiss sent hither on the detachment from Fort St George, addressed the Board upon the subject of being superseded by Captain Gouin who had been sent from Bombay after all the fatigue and trouble to be expected here was at an end, for which reason he desired leave to return to Europe, to have the off reckonings of his company paid him from the time he had received it before he left Madrass and that the dismembering of his company to form an equality in the batalion might not prejudice him in the benefits therefore [sic], for by his capitulation with the Court of Directors he was to have 140 men in his company and therefore hoped he should have it made good in the same manner as if his company had not been dismembered. This last request appearing to us very equitable we assented to make it good and ordered the Military Pay Master to pay him the off reckoning of 140 men for his company for July, but for the reasons already given, we could not think he had been injured by incorporating Captain Gouin. We permitted him therefore to resign his commission, and as we did not know what accounts there might be between him and the Military Pay Master at Fort St. George and his company we did not think it proper to pay his off reckonings here but referred him to the Presidency he came from, to whom we wrote concerning it.

142. Copy of the military regulations of the 17 June 1748 we have received and agreeable to your orders we shall conform as near thereto as circumstances will admit of. Mr. Pigott having transmitted our President a deposition made before him by Colonel Draper against Mr. Robt. Milligan for behaving unlike an officer and a gentleman in his passage from Europe, we have thought proper to refuse him a commission on our establishment, and have ordered him to prepare to return to Europe, as we think after such a publick complaint of his behaviour it would be of great prejudice to the service to

admit him into it and occasion a remonstrance from the whole corps of officers.

143. We beg leave to enforce the request made you by our Select Committee last year that this settlement be supplied with a large reinforcement of troops as can possible be sent us; to enable the Company to maintain a strong garrison in future in Bengal the Select Committee stipulated in their treaty with the Nabob that the Company should have the *zemidarry* of the lands to the southward of Calcutta, the revenue of which will be sufficient to maintain a very large body of men which in the present circumstances of our affairs it is absolutely necessary to keep up. The citadel erected by the advice of Captain Brohier and conformable to his plans will require a garrison of 3000 men at least to defend it properly. If a fortification is made at Burrumpoor, 4. or 500 men ought to be kept in garrison there. In the whole therefore it will be absolutely necessary to have 2000 Europeans at this Presidency besides an equal number of *scapoys* or country soldiers. If Your Honours think the acquisitions made in these provinces are worth preserving, if preventing the French from ever settling here again is an object that deserves your attention and if the advantages obtained for the Company in this kingdom appear to Your Honours of the importance they do to us, we earnestly recommend and entreat the keeping up a respectable force in Bengal, which a garrison of 500 or 1,000 men will never be esteemed either by Europeans or country powers.

144. As Your Honours could not know of all the advantages which would result from the Revolution when your letters by these ships were wrote, we hope your intentions of having only a garrison of 1,000 Europeans will alter, and that not only the ships yet expected from Europe this season are bringing us as many recruits as they could conveniently take on board, but that a large reinforcement will be sent us by the earliest ships of next year, with positive orders to the Coast not to detain them there.

145. In this place we beg leave to remark that the men we receive are oftner fitter for an hospital than for duty; it were therefore much to be wished for the good of the service that other methods were practised for recruiting the military sent abroad. While it is conducted in the present manner we can never expect good men; business of this nature (on which so much depends) should never be carried on by contracts, as we believe it will be very hard to find any contractor so disinterested as to prefer the publick good to his own interest and therefore it may naturally be presumed that instead of taking the best men he will chuse those that can be got cheapest, and those will always be the worst.

146. By a general return of military in Calcutta and Sydavad enclosed in this packett you will observe what number of men we have left, and we hope the reinforcements in future will be equal to our necessities; otherwise our endeavours to enlarge the Company's possessions and increase their trade will have been exerted to little purpose and all those advantages very shortly be lost. The same request we are to make for gunpowder and all kinds of military stores, an indent for which we now forward and recommend it may be punctually complied with.

147. In regard to the article of gunpowder no means have been left untryed to bring it to a tolerable degree of perfection here; but all to no

purpose. Mr. James McDonald under whose inspection it is now made has taken great pains to make the powder of equal quality and strength as the Europe, but it will not answer the proof nor remain tolerably good above a month or two. Whether this is owing to any fault in the materials or in the method of making it we cannot pretend to say, but as it is of the utmost consequence to the preservation of the settlement to have good gunpowder and as we are sensible it will be impossible to be supplied from Europe with the quantity we may be in want of, we beg leave to propose to Your Honours that some persons well skilled in the whole apparatus of making gunpowder may be engaged in the Company's service and sent out to this Presidency, by which means we may probably be enabled to make that article of a proper quality and not depend on supplies from other parts of India which may be intercepted by the enemy and by that means prove a great prejudice to us and an assistance to them.

148. As the bad quality of our powder is by some conjectured to proceed from a defect in the materials, we wrote to all our subordinates and directed them to get some gunpowder made at their respective factories which proves even worse than our own.

149. By the latter ships we shall send you a few specimens of the powder made at this place and of the materials of which it is made that Your Honours may judge where the fault lies.

150. We had before the receipt of your commands per *Warren* reduced the *batty* of the *scapoys* to about half of what was paid them formerly, and if a reduction of the *batty* of the military can be effected we shall put your orders in execution upon that subject.

151. By our consultation of the 16th March you will observe Mr. Pearkes was appointed temporary Chief at Dacca factory as he represented to the Board he had very large outstanding concerns there, which it was necessary for him to be upon the spot to settle. He accordingly proceeded there soon after his appointment and took charge of the factory as Chief, where he remained till your orders per *Hardwick* arrived, at which time we thought proper to recall him to his seat at our Board, having given him sufficient time to settle his affairs at Dacca.

152. Mr. Richard Court was on the 3rd May drowned by a boat, he was in, being upset. By his death the posts of Collector of the Consulate, Register of Dusticks and Sub-Accountant becoming vacant we appointed Mr. William MacGuire to those posts, and on his going Commissary to the expedition under Colonel Forde we appointed Paul Richard Pearkes Esqr. Collector of the Consulate and Register of the Dusticks and Mr. William Rider Sub-Accountant.

153. As we have already wrote Your Honours what followed on the receipt of your commands per *Hardwick* and transmitted you copy of the consultations held in consequence of the rotation appointed by that ship, we shall not add anything on that subject, but refer you to the consultations transmitted in the box of books for our whole proceedings thereon.

154. Mr. Frankland having withdrawn from our Board on the receipt of the above orders we wrote him a letter and invited him to resume his seat and remain at the Board as long as he could with propriety, his services and advice

being much wanted at that juncture of affairs. In consequence of which request from the Council he returned to his seat at the Board and consented to give his attendance and advice till the arrival of Mr. Holwell by whom he was superseded in the above mentioned letter per *Hardwick*.

155. Mr. John Cooke desiring permission on the 23rd June to relinquish the post of Secretary to the Select Committee, we appointed Mr. William MacGuire to that employ; upon his going Commissary to that expedition we gave the post of Secretary to the Select Committee to Mr. Culling Smith. Mr. Cooke having since requested leave to resign his post of Secretary to the settlement on account of his sight, which had been much impaired by six years' close application to the desk, we assented to ease him of the writing part of his office, but directed him to continue in the post of Secretary till the dispatch of the ships.

156. As it is attended with great inconveniences to your service to have the posts of Secretary and Accomptant fluctuate from one person to another, it requiring some time for gentlemen appointed to those posts to make themselves masters of the business and forms of the respective offices, we recommend it to Your Honours to send to this Presidency two persons of proper abilities to be perpetual Secretary and Accomptant without rising in the service, with such salaries, allowances and other privileges of trade as you may think proper to settle on them. And we are of opinion it would be usefull if the Deputys to those offices were likewise filled up from Europe with orders to succeed in case of the death or return of the heads, as an accident to the gentlemen sent out, Secretary and Accomptant, would defeat the design of their being sent abroad unless others were masters enough of the business of those offices to succeed them. We do not by this paragraph mean to reflect on the abilities of your junior servants here; or those who at present fill the offices, but as it becomes necessary for the gentlemen of the covenanted list who do or may enjoy these posts to be removed to subordinates and by their natural rise in the service succeed to higher stations, we have thought it necessary to recommend it to your consideration for persons to be appointed from England to those particular offices without being liable to change or the advantage of supercedance.

157. Mr. Thomas Winter, one of the writers who came on the *Hardwicke*, departed this life on the 23rd August of a dysentery.

158. Mr. Bristow our Resident at Cuttack having gone to the southward upon the invitation of some rajahs in our interest we appointed Mr. George Gray Resident at that place and Mr. George Williamson Sub-Secretary in the room of Mr. Gray.

159. Upon Mr. Playdell's being ordered in Council to proceed Chief of the Luckypore factory, Mr. John Johnstone was appointed Chief at Ballasore and in his room Mr. Henry Lushington Translator of the Persian Papers with the allowance of 90 rupees per month paid to Mr. Johnstone.

160. A translator of Dutch and French letters being wanted and Mr. Edward Oakes being very well qualified for that employ we conferred it upon him with an appointment of 40 rupees per month.

161. The gentlemen at Patna wrote us under date the 25th August that Meer Iskoola's nephew demanded of them the performance of a contract

Mr. Pearkes had made with his uncle in the Company's name for 10,000 maunds of petre @ 3 sicca rupees 4 annas per maund, of which he had received 8004 maunds, but now refused to take the remaining quantity. They desired our orders how to act as the price was much higher than what they bought petre at now. Mr. Pearkes was therefore ordered to inform the Board of the particulars of his contract with Meer Iskoola, which he did at full on the 7 September as by his minute entered on the face of that day's consultation.

162. The President at the same time laid before the Board an extract he had received from Mr. Amyatt charging Mr. Pearkes with having boiled up a quantity of petre in the Company's *carconnah* of Singy and Chuprahs on his own account and making purchases of saltpetre from various *assammies* at very low prices, which had been sent to Calcutta and delivered the Company at 5-2² per maund. This charge Mr. Pearkes was likewise ordered to answer and accordingly did so in a minute entered on our consultation of the 14 September, to which we beg leave to refer Your Honours.

163. Other business of consequence having taking [*sic*] up the attention of the Board at that time, we were obliged to defer our enquiry into Mr. Pearkes his conduct at Patna till we were at more leisure to consider of that affair. Upon the arrival of the *Warren* and *London* and the appointment of posts to the members of the Board it was agreed Mr. Pearkes should go Chief to Luckypore, but previous to his going up it was necessary that the charge laid against him as before mentioned should be cleared up, which he moved the Board to take into their consideration and determine upon as soon as possible. As the easiest and clearest method of coming to a proper knowledge of the affair we appointed Messrs Mackett, Boddam and Serafton a committee of facts to examine the matter impartially and lay their report before the Board. Their proceedings were delivered in on the 7th instant and accompanied with a letter from the committee wherein they acquainted us Mr. Pearkes had acknowledged what was alledged against him but pleaded a contract with the Company and the orders and approbation of the Board for what he did. It therefore remained with us to determine if any such contract had been entered into with Mr. Pearkes.

164. The final consideration of this affair coming on before us on the 14th December, and upon a reference to Mr. Pearkes's several letters from Patna with the answers of the Board, it appeared that he had apprized the Council of two substantial merchants who were willing to contract for the delivery of 50,000 maunds of petre at 5-2³ in Calcutta, which being approved of, that 5,000 maunds had been sent down, delivered and paid for as the property of the said merchants whereas in reality no such merchants or contract existed on the Company's account. As Mr. Pearkes had therefore deceived the Board with a fictitious contract and had committed a breach of the orders given him at the first going up in not informing the Board the most that could be done at that factory for the Company and the real price saltpetre might be procured for with ready money, it was unanimously agreed to suspend him from his seat at the Board till Your Honours' pleasure is known, but that he do continue in the service with the allowances of a counsellor and be appointed Accomptant with the additional salary of 1,000 rupees per annum annexed to this post by your commands of this season.

165. The Export Warehouse Keeper having requested that a Deputy and

some assistants might be appointed to that warehouse we stationed Mr. Culling Smith as Sub Export Warehouse Keeper and Mr. Henry Lushington as an Assistant.

166. The writers sent out this season upon their arrival were called before us and asked as usual in what manner the commanders they came out with had treated them. They have been stationed in the different offices they were most wanted in and we shall be carefull to keep them strictly to their business.

167. We shall take under our consideration the distressed circumstances of the widow and family of the late Mr. Mapletoft agreeable to your orders and give them such relief as may be necessary for their support, of which we shall advise when we have fixed upon the allowance we purpose to make them.

168. Messrs Rider and Barton have received letters of administration from Mrs. Elizebeth Dodd and are transmitting the balance of Mr. Dodd's estate (which they have received from Roger Drake Esqre) by bills on the United Company. The chest of silver you mention was coined by Mr. Drake in our mint and the produce thereof is in the ballance paid to Messrs Rider and Barton.

169. The silver sent out per *Walpole* for Nathan Drake was coined at Fort St. George and the produce thereof paid by us to Mr. Randolph Marriott, administrator to that young gentleman's estate.

170. We shall pay due regard to the particular mention Your Honours have made in the 54 paragraph of your commands per *Hardwick* of Messrs Cooke, Ellis and Cartier whenever opportunities offer of shewing them favor, and we take the liberty of recommending to your equal favor and notice Messrs Scrafton, Rider, Johnstone and Marriott who acted as officers in the army from the time of the march from Fultah to the conclusion of the troubles by the revolution effected in these provinces, and throughout behaved themselves as becoming their stations in that capacity and to the satisfaction of the Commander-in-Chief of the troops.

171. Mr. Anselm Beaumont has been made acquainted with the rank Your Honours have given him in the service, and we have appointed him one of the judges of the *Cutcherry* Court; the other members of which court are Messrs John Cooke, William Hay, John Chambers, Ralph Leicester.

172. The regulations, instructions and general rules transmitted as in Your Honours' commands of the 3rd March we referred to the consideration of Messrs Watts, Beecher, Frankland and Holwell who were appointed a committee to peruse the same and report to the Board what parts thereof might be put in execution without alteration or variation, and where alterations appeared necessary to give us their opinion thereon.

173. Their reports are entered after our consultations and being approved of by the Board we shall give Your Honours an account of the substance of what has been done relative to those rules and regulations. The whole of the 95th paragraph of your commands of the 3d March will be carried into execution under the management of the Collector of Rents and Revenues with the following alterations and exceptions: that the duty on the sale of old sloops and boats be farmed out as heretofore, that the dammer and oakum farm be abolished, and that the duty on burdened oxen be also erected into a farm.

The salt farm and that of tobacco shops we have abolished and ordered that the customs only be collected on the articles, as it would have proved a heavy grievance on the poor to have continued those farms and collected the customs likewise, those articles being essentials of life among these people; and whereas the *arrack* farm was usually farmed out for 7 years we have now agreed to sell it only for 2 years and under the restrictions Your Honors mention to be practised at Bombay, the Collector being ordered to visit the distillery and inspect into the quality of the *arrack* and goodness of the materials. The 96 paragraph of your orders we shall carry into execution as it stands in the letter. The administration of justice in civil causes between the natives cannot we think be carried on by the exhibits etc., on the plan of the Mayor's Court, but should rather be managed as nearly as possible on the plan of the Court of Requests. In other respects we are of opinion your orders may be complied with. We have likewise ordered a duty of 5 per cent to be collected on all sums recovered in the *Cutcherry* Court and the *etlack* to be abolished. We have empowered that Court to fine, when it shall appear to the sitting judges that any cause before them is extremely litigious, but the fine is not to exceed 5 per cent more than the *punchoturra* on the thing decreed. With respect to the orders for the administration of justice in criminal cases, we think they may be carried into execution as they stand in the 99th paragraph with this necessary variation that the quorum sit only once a week in the place of three times which would interfere too much with the duties of their different posts and attendance on councils, committees etc. We have continued the *etlack* in criminal cases in order to reimburse the Company the charge of peons and other expences necessarily attending these proceedings. The whole of the 100th and 101th paragraphs are ordered to be carried into execution without any variation.

174. Having established a Sea and Land Custom Master as is before mentioned we have directed (to avoid all clashing between those offices in collecting the customs) that every article which properly comes under the head of merchandize and are imported by water carriage whether in ships, sloops or boats, be under cognizance of the Sea Custom Master, and that all articles imported by land carriage be under cognizance of the Land Custom Master including all cloth etc., manufactured in the settlement and the articles which enter into the daily consumption of the place. And whereas many of these articles are imported in boats from the other side of the river and from both above and below the settlement, we shall establish the *gauts* for the Land Custom Master, one to the northward, the other to the southward of the town, for landing those articles and annex the penalty of confiscation if they are landed any where else. We shall likewise establish 7 avenues or entrances in the most convenient place for the admission of all articles chargeable with duties and shall annex the penalty of confiscation upon every commodity brought into the place by any other road. Upon a carefull retrospection into the former duties levied, which constituted the farms now abolished, we find on an average that the custom of 4 per cent now ordered by Your Honours will be easier to the poor and a general benefit to the settlement. We shall therefore direct that a calculate of duties agreeable to the said order be made on each article, and shall relieve the poor in all articles of common consumption whenever the duty collected on them appears a grievance conformable to your repeated commands.

175. We have ordered Mr. Bartholomew Plaisted to act as Surveyor of the Company's works agreeable to your commands, but in order to avoid any cause of disgust or contest with our Engineer we have directed him not to interfere in any shape with the fortification of the settlement or the new works now erecting under the inspection of Captain Brohier, as it is our opinion it could not be your intention that the post of Surveyor should extend to those works unless in a manner subordinate to the Engineer.

176. We are of opinion your orders respecting the business of the several offices being carried on by black soldiers in place of *buxerrys*, *pykes* and peons cannot in the whole be carried into execution. *Seapoys* may very well supply the place of *buxerrys* and *pykes*, whether as guards or centinels, but the current business of each office will require a certain number of peons to carry it on properly.

177. The orders and regulations concerning the mint shall be complied with as they stand in the letter of the 3rd March without any variation. We shall likewise make the contractor give the strongest obligation with a penalty annexed that he shall not debase the coin and that he likewise sends some of the coinage (through the Board) monthly to the mint of Muxadavad to be essayed there.

178. Your Honours' commands relative to the *dustucks* and the marine shall be carried into execution without variation.

179. A due regard shall be paid by us to your orders and recommendation for economy and frugality, and we shall as much as lays in our power enforce the same by our example and authority to the junior servants. The writers were sent for and the several paragraphs in your commands relative to them were read by the Secretary to them all in our presence. Those orders were seconded by a strenuous recommendation to them from the Board to observe and follow the direction of our hon'ble masters, and the consequences of disobedience set before them in the strongest terms. We shall exact a compliance with the orders for laying down chaises and horses but have been obliged to indulge them with the use of a palanquin in the hot months and rains on account of the distance of some of their houses from the offices they belong to. When the citadel is finished and apartments for the servants are built contiguous to the publick offices there will be no occasion for the expence of a palanquin and we shall then oblige them to lay it aside.

180. We shall pay the writers upon our establishment 400 rupees per annum in future agreeable to your directions, but there being no apartments built for them as yet, we have thought proper to continue the allowance of house rent to them till places are made for their habitation in the new fort.

181. The expences of this Presidency were under our consideration when the *Warren* and *London* arrived; the business which has since intervened prevented our progress in that work which we purpose to resume as soon as we have leisure.

182. Your Honours in the letter of the 23rd March having left the appointment of posts at the Board entirely to us, we have filled them up in the following manner:

Charles Manningham Esqr., Chief at Cossimbuzar.

William Frankland Esqr., Collector of the Rents and Revenues and Export Warehouse Keeper.

John Zephaniah Holwell Esqr., Import Warehouse Keeper and Military Storekeeper.

William Mackett Esqr., Storekeeper, *Buxey* and Pay Master of the Works.

Thomas Boddam Esqr., Sea Custom Master.

Charles Stafford Playdell Esqr., Land Custom Master.

183. Conformable to your directions in the letter under date the 10th November 1757 and confirmed by your subsequent commands we shall not encrease the Council above the number of 10, the Major included.

184. The intention Messrs Watts, Becher and Collet have signified of returning to Europe this season making a vacancy of one member in Council, we have filled up the vacaney with Charles Stafford Playdell Esqr., who took his seat at the Board on the 7th instant. Messrs Manningham and Frankland having likewise intimated their intention of returning to England this season, the President delivered in a letter to the Board on the . . . ultimo requesting those gentlemen to stay a season longer in the country in order to assist him in the management of the Company's affairs at this Presidency, to which they cheerfully assented for the good of their employers.

185. Our President returns Your Honours his most humble thanks for the appointment of him to the government of your settlements in Bengal and desires you will rest assured of his best efforts for your service and interest during his stay in India. By his letter entered on the face of our consultation of the 23rd November you will find he purposes to return to Europe by the ships of next season, before which we have hopes the greatest part if not the whole of the treaty with the Nabob will be completed.

186. We have appointed Mr. William Brightwell Sumner Chief of the Daeca factory and Mr. Harry Verrelst Chief at Luckypoor, to which Chiefships we shall annex the salaries you have ordered and direct those gentlemen to charge no more.

187. Mr. Johnstone being sent by the Select Committee to Golconda upon business of consequence, we have sent Mr. Charles Rogers to Ballasore to receive the charge of the factory and carry on the business till Mr. Johnstone returns.

188. Nothing has been paid to the attorneys of Captain Nathaniel Jacobs since the 1st October 1756 as Mrs. Mary Jacobs died the 9th of that month.

189. The Secretary and Sub Accomptant have been ordered to pay the strictest regard to such of your commands as relate to their respective offices. The alterations and amendments signed by your Auditor are delivered to your Accomptant with directions to comply with them and form a correct sett of books to begin from April 1755.

190. The Secretary desires leave to apologize for the incorrectness and defects in the business of his office this year, many papers being lost which should have been entered after the consultations. This has been owing to the want of a proper office and conveniencies for keeping the papers which

obliged him to permit the young gentlemen (with leave of the late President) to carry their books and other business to be transcribed at their own houses, by which means several papers and accounts have been mislaid. To remedy this evil and prevent anything of this kind for the future we purchased Mr. Court's house and have ordered desks, presses and conveniences of all sorts to be made for the use of the several publick offices of the settlement.

191. Before we close this head we think it necessary to take notice that we are in great want of assistants, being obliged to entertain a great number of monthly writers to bring up the business.

192. Mr. Drake has been made acquainted of your orders in his favor, prior to which he had informed the Board he should return to Europe this year; accordingly he takes his passage on the *Ilchester*.

193. Mr. Watts leaves India at the same time and returns to Europe by the above mentioned ship. Mr. Beclier designs going home on the *Warren* and Mr. Collett on the *London*.

194. In our advices last season we omitted the mention of our having requested the Reverend Mr. Henry Butler (who came out on the *Grantham* for Bencoolen) to stay at this place and officiate as Chaplain of the settlement till we heard from Europe, to which he assented. If Your Honours have not before the receipt of this letter engaged the chaplains for this Presidency we beg leave to recommend Mr. Butler to be appointed on our establishment as his deportment during his residence here has been extremely satisfactory to the Board and to the settlement in general and his behaviour in every respect very becoming his profession. If two chaplains are engaged and sent out for this place before this letter reaches Your Honors we then beg leave to recommend that the Reverend Mr. Henry Butler may succeed Mr. Palk as Chaplain at Fort St. George, which will be more agreeable to him than going to Bencoolen.

Seventhly, touching accounts

195. We shall be careful to transmit Your Honors a state of the quick stock of this Presidency by every ship agreeable to your orders.

196. The account of the loss sustained by the Company in consequence of the late calamity would have been so imperfect that we thought it useless to send it home; we shall however form as near a statement as we can of that loss and transmit it by the latter ships of this season.

197. Mr. William Rider, Sub-Accomptant, on the 14th instant sent in a letter to the Board setting forth the inutility of ballancing the present general books, erroneous as they are, and submitted to our consideration whether they should be ballanced to the 30th April 1758 or transmitted open, and a reform of the errors incurred for want of the cash and treasury and other accounts of 1755 be immediately undertaken and a sett of correct books commencing from April 1755 got in readiness to be forwarded by the first ships of next year. As the ballancing of these books would be no impediment to drawing out a correct journal after the dispatch of this year's ships and as we do not know if sending home the books open would be approved of

by Your Honors we have ordered Mr. Rider to ballance and close to the 30th April 1758 and enclose a copy of his letter to which we refer Your Honours.

198. We are now to advise Your Honours of the several sums for which we have drawn upon you by this ship at 2s. 3d for the current rupee. The bills are made payable 365 days after sight conformable to your orders and we have advertised that six months' interest from the day of acceptance will be allowed on the amount of each sett of bills at the rate of 3 per cent per annum. This we have promised in the Company's name by a publick notification, esteeming it irregular to insert such a condition in the body of the bill as it would in this case have become rather a bond than a bill of exchange.

One sett for pounds sterling two thousand nine hundred and eleven, ten shillings (£st 2911-10) payable to John Boissier and Company or order for current rupees twenty five thousand eight hundred and eighty (CRs. 25880) received here of Roger Drake Esqr. account George Frederick Gaup at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one thousand one hundred and twenty five (£st 1125) payable to John Boissier and Company or order for current rupees ten thousand (CRs. 10000) received here of Roger Drake Esqr. account John Fredk. de Stenger at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one thousand one hundred and twenty three and ten shillings and four pence (£st. 1123-10-4) payable to Laurence Sullivan and Richard Baker Esqr. or order for current rupees nine thousand nine hundred eighty six and thirteen annas (CRs. 9986-13) received here of Messrs James Barton and William Rider on account the estate of John Dodd deceased at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling five hundred (£st. 500) payable to Richard Baker Esqr. and the Reverend Edmond Rider or order for current rupees four thousand four hundred and forty four and seven annas (CRs. 4444-7) received here of Mr. William Rider at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling nine thousand one hundred seventy four, four shillings and ten pence (£st. 9174-4-10) payable to Joseph Godfrey and Brice Fisher Esqr. or order for current rupees eighty one thousand five hundred forty eight, thirteen annas and three pice (CRs. 81548-13-3) received here of Mr. William Fullerton on account John Fullerton Esqr. at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling eight thousand (£st. 8000) payable to Joseph Godfrey and Brice Fisher Esqrs. or order for current rupees seventy one thousand one hundred and eleven, one anna and 9 pice (CRs. 71111-1-9) received here of William Watts Esqr. account John Walsh Esqr. at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling three thousand (£st. 3000) payable to Joseph Godfrey and Brice Fisher Esqr. or order for current rupees twenty six thousand six hundred sixty six, ten annas, nine pice (26666-10-9) received here of William Watts Esqr. account Stanlake Batson at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling four thou.

Joseph Godfrey and Brice Fisher Esqrs. or order for current rupees thirty five thousand five hundred fifty five, eight annas, nine pice (CRs. 35555-8-9) received here of William Watts Esqr. for his own account at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling four thousand (£st. 4000) payable to Joseph Godfrey and Brice Fisher Esqrs. or order for current rupees thirty five thousand five hundred fifty five, eight annas, nine pice (CRs. 35555-8-9) received here of William Watts Esqr. for his own account at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling four thousand (£st. 4000) payable to Joseph Godfrey and Brice Fisher Esqrs. or order for current rupees thirty five thousand five hundred fifty five, eight annas, nine pice (CRs. 35555-8-9) received here of William Watts Esqr. for his own account at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling three thousand one hundred (£st. 3100) payable to Joseph Godfrey and Brice Fisher Esqrs. or order for current rupees twenty seven thousand five hundred fifty five and 9 annas (CRs. 27555-9) received here of William Watts Esqr. for his own account at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling three thousand sixty six, four shillings and six pence (£st. 3066-4-6) payable to Messrs John Hallett and John Saure or order for current rupees twenty seven thousand two hundred fifty five, five annas and nine pice (27255-5-9) received here of Captain John Sampson at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling eleven thousand two hundred and fifty (£st. 11250) payable to Frederick and Thomas Frankland Esqrs. or order for current rupees one hundred thousand (CRs. 100,000) received here of William Frankland Esqr. at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one thousand one hundred and twenty five (£st. 1125) payable to Thomas Manningham and Laurence Sullivan Esqrs. or order for current rupees ten thousand (CRs. 10,000) received here of Charles Manningham Esqr. at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two thousand two hundred and fifty (£st. 2250) payable to Thomas Manningham and Laurence Sullivan Esqrs. or order for current rupees twenty thousand (CRs. 20,000) received here of Charles Manningham Esqr. at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds three thousand three hundred and seventy five (£st. 3375) payable to Thomas Manningham and Laurence Sullivan Esqrs. or order for current rupees seventeen thousand seven hundred seventy seven, twelve annas, six pice (CRs. 17777-12-6) received here of Charles Manningham Esqr. at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two thousand five hundred (£st. 2500) payable to Thomas Manningham and Laurence Sullivan Esqrs. or order for current rupees twenty two thousand two hundred twenty two, three annas, six pice (CRs. 22222-3-6) received here of Charles Manningham Esqr. at 2s. 3d. per rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling eighty seven, seventeen shillings and

four pence (£st. 87-17-4) payable to Bernard Forrester or order for current rupees seven hundred eighty one and 9 pice (CRs. 781-0-9) received here of Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqre. on account Bernard Forrester at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling seventy, eight shillings, and eleven pence (£st. 70-8-11) payable to James Wood or order for current rupees six hundred twenty six, three annas and three pice (CRs. 626-3-3) received here from Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqrs. on account James Wood at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling forty six, nineteen shillings and eleven pence (£st. 46-19-11) payable to Captain Carteret Legeyt or order for current rupees four hundred seventeen, eleven annas and three pice (CRs. 417-11-3) received here of Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqre. on account Carteret Legeyt at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one hundred thirty five, seventeen shillings (£st. 135-17) payable to Thomas Saunders Esqr. or order for current rupees one thousand two hundred seven and nine annas (CRs. 1207-9) received here of Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqrs. account Thomas Saunders at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two hundred fifty seven, two shillings and ten pence (£st. 257-2-10) payable to Cornelius Goodwin Esqre. or order for current rupees two thousand two hundred eighty five, eleven annas, 6 pice (CRs. 2285-11-6) received here of Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqrs. account Mrs Elizabeth Cockell at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one hundred fifty four, fourteen shillings and six pence (£st 154-14-6) payable to John Griffin or order for current rupees one thousand three hundred seventy five, 5 annas, six pice (CRs. 1375-5-6) received here of Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqrs on account John Griffin at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling four hundred thirty three, fourteen shillings and five pence (£st 433-14-5) payable to Stephen Law Esqre. or order for current rupees three thousand eight hundred fifty five, four annas, 9 pice (CRs. 3855-4-9) received here of Charles Manningham and William Frankland on their own account at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one hundred sixty four, eight shillings and four pence (£st 164-8-4) payable to Mrs. Margaret Combes or order for current rupees one thousand four hundred sixty one, seven annas and six pice (CRs. 1461-7-6) received here of Chas. Manningham and William Frankland on account Margaret Combes at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling six hundred sixty eight, fifteen shillings, and five pence (£st 668-15-5) payable to Cornelius Goodwin and Nathaniel Neal Esqrs. or order for current rupees five thousand nine hundred forty four, ten annas, three pice (CRs. 5944-10-3) received here of Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqr on account Mrs Anne Mandeville at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling seven hundred eighty three, five shillings

and seven pence (£st 783-5-7) payable to Adam Dawson Esqr. or order for current rupees six thousand nine hundred sixty two and eight annas (CRs. 6962-8) received here of Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqrs account Adam Dawson at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for £ sterling four hundred eighteen, eight shillings and four pence (£st 418-8-4) payable to Thomas Fytche Esqr. or order for current rupees three thousand seven hundred nineteen, 4 annas, three pice (CRs. 3719-4-3) received here of Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqrs on their own account at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one hundred twelve and three pence (£st 112-0-3) payable to Robert Goodere Esqre or order for current rupees nine hundred ninety five, ten annas and 9 pice (CRs. 995-10-9) received here of Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqrs on account Robert Goodere Esqre at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one thousand four hundred forty six, three shillings and seven pence (£st 1446-3-7) payable to William Wogan junior or order for current rupees twelve thousand eight hundred fifty four, fifteen annas (CRs. 12854-15) received here of Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqrs on account William Wogan junior at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling three thousand three hundred sixty five and one shilling (£st 3365-1) payable to Joseph Solomons Esqre. or order for current rupees twenty nine thousand nine hundred and eleven and nine annas (CRs. 29911-9) received here of Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqrs. on account Joseph Solomons at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling three hundred and seventeen, four shillings and four pence (£st 317-4-4) payable to John Henry Mertins Esqre or order for current rupees two thousand eight hundred nineteen, eleven annas, three pice (CRs. 2819-11-3) received here of Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqre in full returns of one chest of coral [Mark No. 10] No 1 imported per ship *Walpole* anno 1756 at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling twenty five, ten shillings and one penny (£st 25-10-1) payable to Mr. James Adam or order for current rupees two hundred twenty six, eleven annas, six pice (CRs. 226-11-6) received here of Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqrs in further part restitution of a chest of amber beads [Mark No. 12] No 6 at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling twenty nine, eighteen shillings and ten pence (£st 29-18-10) payable to Mr. Judah Supino or order for current rupees two hundred sixty six, two annas, six pice (CRs. 266-2-6) received here of Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqrs in further part restitution for a chest of coral beads [Mark No. 8] No 11 imported per ship *Eastcourt* anno. 1755 at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling seventy six, eighteen shillings and five pence (£st 76-18-5) payable to Messrs Isaac Mendez da Costa and Nunes Brothers or order for current rupees six hundred eighty three and twelve

annas (CRs. 683-12) received here of Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqrs in further part restitution for coral beads two chests marked [Mark No. 9] No 5 per *True Briton* 1754 and [Mark No. 9] No 14 per *Eastcourt* 1755 at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two hundred seven, fifteen shillings and three pence (£st 207-15-3) payable to Richard and William Barwell Esqr or order for current rupees one thousand eight hundred forty six, twelve annas and six pice (CRs. 1846-12-6) received of Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqrs in further part returns of one chest coral beads R B No 18 imports per *Walpole* anno 1756 at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling eight hundred twenty four, one shilling and six pence (£st 824-1-6) payable to Messrs Abraham and Jacob Franco, their assigns or order for current rupees seven thousand three hundred twenty five, one anna, six pice (CRs. 7325-1-6) received here of Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqrs in full returns of rough coral four chests [Mark No. 13] No. 18 à 21 imported per ship *Tavistock* anno 1757 at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling eight hundred and eight pence (£st 800-0-8) payable to Joseph Salvador Esqr or order for current rupees seven thousand one hundred eleven, six annas, nine pice (CRs. 7111-6-9) received here of Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqr. in further part restitution for coral beads one chest [Mark No. 14] No 14 and [Mark No. 15] No 1 per *Eastcourt* 1755 in full proceeds of coral beads MN No 1 & GM No 6 per *Walpole* 1756 and in part returns of one chest of coral beads [Mark No. 16] No 2 per *Marlbro'* 1756 at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two hundred twenty eight, two shillings and three pence (£stel 228-2-3) payable to Joseph Salvador Esqr or order for current rupees two thousand twenty seven, ten annas, six pice (CRs. 2027-10-6) received here of Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqrs in full returns of coral beads 1 chest [Mark No. 17] No. 5 per *Wager* 1748 account the estate of Mr. Jacob Salvador deceased at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling nine hundred ninety two, eighteen shillings, and seven pence (£992-18-7) payable to Messrs Josephus and David Franco or order for current rupees eight thousand eight hundred twenty six and six pice (CRs. 8826-0-6) received here of Roger Drake junior and Charles Manningham Esqrs in full returns for 1 chest of coral beads [Mark No. 18] No 2 imported per *Ilchester* 1758 at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two thousand three hundred fifty nine, five shillings and nine pence (£st 2359-5-9) payable to Thomas Godfrey Esqr or order for current rupees twenty thousand nine hundred seventy one, seven annas, three pice (CRs. 20971-7-3) received here of Roger Drake Junr. and Charles Manningham Esqrs in full return for coral beads [Mark No. 19] No 1, 2, & 3, per *Eastcourt* and *Duke of Dorset* 1755 and

in full proceeds of coral beads AB No 2 per *Elizabeth* 1758 and AB No. 1 and 2 per *Ilchester* and *Fox* 1758 at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two thousand nine hundred twenty one, six shillings and 2 pence (£ 2921-6-2) payable to Roger Drake Junr. and Chas. Manningham Esqrs in further part restitution for emeralds one box B No 6, coral beads B No 5 & 7, bugles ten cask and a box F No 1 à 11 per *Eastcourt* and *Duke of Dorset* 1755 and in full proceeds of coral beads [Mark No 20] No 18 per *Godolphin* 1752, FF No 9 per *Lynn* 1750, B No 8 per *Ilchester* 1758 at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two hundred seventy four, four shillings and two pence (£st 274-4-2) payable to William Davis Esqre or order for current rupees two thousand four hundred thirty seven, six annas, three pice (CRs. 2437-6-3) received here of Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqrs on account William Davis Esqre at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one thousand nine hundred twenty two, five pence (£st 1922-0-5) payable to Willm Belchier Esqr & Company or order for current rupees seventeen thousand eighty four and ten annas (CRs. 17084-10) received here of Charles Manningham Esqre account Nicholas Deller at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling three thousand one hundred twenty seven, ten shillings and eleven pence (£st 3127-10-11) payable to Messrs Mosch Franco & Company or order for current rupees twenty seven thousand eight hundred, six annas, and three pice (27800-6-3) received here of Roger Drake junior and Charles Manningham Esqrs in further part restitution for coral beads [Mark No. 21] No 2 & 3 per *Duke of Dorset* 1755 and full proceeds for coral beads [Mark No. 22] No 4 per *Chesterfield* 1756, No 6 & 7 per *Grantham* and *Fox* 1758 and [Mark No. 23] No 1 per *Ilchester* 1758 at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling six hundred forty six, two shillings and three pence (£st 646-2-3) payable to Messrs Henry and Peter Muilman, Joseph Solomons and Hugh Ross or order for current rupees five thousand seven hundred forty three, three annas and nine pice (CRs. 5743-3-9) received here of Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqrs by orders of Messrs Peter Mariette and Andrew Ross of Madrass in further part restitution for 11 chests of coral beads [Mark No. 24] No 1 & 2 per *Prince of Wales* 1755, [Mark No. 24] No. 3 & 4, M No. 3 & 5, MS No. 8 per *Duke of Dorset* 1755, M No 2 per *Bombay Castle* 1755, MS No 5, 6 & 7 per *Rhoda* 1755 at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling three thousand twenty seven, thirteen shillings and eight pence (£st 3027-13-8) payable to Mr. Devereux Bowly, or order for current rupees twenty six thousand nine hundred twelve, eleven annas, nine pice (CRs. 26912-11-9) received here of Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqrs on account of Robert Sloper at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling sixty two, eleven shillings (£st 62-11) payable to Richard Eyre Esqre or order for current rupees five hundred

fifty six and three pice (CRs. 556-0-3) received here of Charles Manningham Esqr. on account Hugh Stackhouse at 2s. 3d each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one hundred sixteen, eight shillings and eleven pence (£st 116-8-11) payable to William Davis Esqre or order for current rupees one thousand thirty five, one anna, and three pice (CRs. 1035-1-3) received here of Charles Manningham and. William Mackett Esqre on account Mrs Elizabeth at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling three thousand (£st 3000) payable to Messrs Nettleton and Raikes or order for current rupees twenty six thousand six hundred sixty six, ten annas and nine pice (CRs. 26666-10-9) received here of Richard Becher Esqr on his own account at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling four thousand four hundred (£st 4400) payable to Mr. James Holcombe or order for current rupees thirty nine thousand one hundred eleven, one anna, six pice (CRs. 39111-1-6) received here of Mr. David Rannie on his own account at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling four thousand (£4000) payable to Roger Drake and Beeston Long Esqrs or order for current rupees thirty five thousand five hundred fifty five, eight annas, and nine pice (CRs. 35555-8-9) received here of Mr. John Durand on his own account at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two thousand seven hundred (£st 2700) payable to Captain Alexander Grant or order for current rupees twenty four thousand (CRs. 24000) received here of the said Capt. Alexr. Grant at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one hundred twelve and ten shillings (£st 112-10) payable to Dr. John Munro or order for current rupees one thousand (CRs. 1000) received here of Mr. Culling Smith at 2s. 3d. per rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling eight thousand (£st 8000) payable to Captain Thomas Lewis or order for current rupees seventy one thousand one hundred eleven, one anna, and nine pice (CRs. 71111-1-9) received here of the said Captain Thomas Lewis at 2s. 3d. per rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one thousand two hundred seventy one, four shillings and two pence (£st 1271-4-2) payable to Edward Page Esqre or order for current rupees eleven thousand two hundred ninety nine, ten annas and three pice (CRs. 11299-10-3) received here of Richard Becher and William Fullerton Esqrs on account Edward Page Esqr at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One set for pounds sterling three hundred thirty one, eight shillings, and six pence (£st 331-8-6) payable to John Ward Esqr or order for current rupees two thousand nine hundred forty six (CRs. 2946) received here of Richard Becher Esqr on account John Smith Esqr at Madrass at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling sixty two, nine shillings and three pence (£st 62-9-3) payable to Captain John Oliver or order for current rupees

five hundred fifty five, three annas, and nine pice (CRs. 555-3-9) received here of Richard Becher Esqr. on account Captain Oliver at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling nine thousand (£st 9000) payable to Alexander and Abraham Hume Esqrs or order for current rupees eighty thousand (CRs. 80000) received here of Thomas Boddam Esqr on account Thomas Boddam Esqr and Thomas Maunsell at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one thousand four hundred sixty two, ten shillings (£st 1462-10) payable to Capt. G. Muir and Mr. John Thompson or order for current rupees thirteen thousand (CRs. 13000) received here of Messrs O'Hara, Hay and Howitt on account Captain G. Muir at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one hundred thirty one, fifteen shillings and two pence (£st 131-15-2) payable to Mrs. Anna Grahame or order for current rupees one thousand one hundred seventy one, three annas, three pice (CRs. 1171-3-3) received here of Mr. George Gray Senr. at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling three thousand seven hundred twenty five, eighteen shillings; and nine pence (£st 3725-18-9) payable to John Brown Esqr or order for current rupees thirty three thousand one hundred nineteen, seven annas and three pice (CRs. 33119-7-3) received here of Messrs Willm. Mackett and George Gray Senr. at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one thousand one hundred forty four, eleven shillings and six pence (£st 1144-11-6) payable to Mr. Willm Grahame or order for current rupees ten thousand one hundred seventy four (CRs. 10174) received here of Mr. George Gray senior at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two hundred (£st 200) payable to Capt. Charles Palmer or order for current rupees one thousand seven hundred seventy seven, twelve annas, six pice (CRs. 1777-12-6) received here of Messrs George Gray and William Rider at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one hundred fifty (£st 150) payable to Sir James Johnstone and James Johnstone Esqr or order for current rupees one thousand three hundred thirty three, five annas and three pice (CRs. 1333-5-3) received here of Messrs Willm Rider and Ralph Lycester on account Mr. John Johnstone at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one hundred twenty and two pence (£st 120-0-2) payable to Robt. James Esqr or order for current rupees one thousand sixty six, eleven annas, and 9 pice (CRs. 1066-11-9) received here of John Zephaniah Holwell Esqr on account the estate of Mr. Aylmer Harrod at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two hundred twenty-four, ten shillings and five pence (£st 224-10-5) payable to Mr. George Leycester or order for current rupees one thousand nine hundred ninety five and nine pice, (CRs. 1995-0-9) received here of Mr. Leycester on account the estate of Mr. Edward Page at 2s. 3d. each rupee

One sett for pounds sterling two hundred and fifty (£st 250) payable

to Mr. Patrick Scott or order current rupees two thousand two hundred twenty two, three annas, six pice (CRs. 2222-3-6) received here of Messrs Lycester and Charlton at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one thousand (£st 1000) payable to William Davis and Richard Baker Esqrs or order for current rupees eight thousand eight hundred eighty eight, and fourteen annas (CRs. 8888-14) received here of Messrs John Zephaniah Holwell and William Rider Esqrs on account the estate of John Coatsworth at 2s. 3d. per rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two thousand three hundred eighteen, eleven shillings and eleven pence (£st 2318-11-11) payable to Mrs Frances Townshend or order for current rupees twenty thousand six hundred nine, twelve annas (CRs. 20609-12) received here of Mrs Frances Townshend at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling thirteen, two shillings and five pence (£ 13-2-5) payable to Mrs Anne Mertins or order for current rupees one hundred sixteen and ten annas (CRs. 116-10) received here of Mr. Philip Dacres at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling three thousand five hundred eighty one, twelve shillings and two pence (£st 3581-12-2) payable to Thomas Manningham and Laurence Sullivan Esqrs or order for current rupees thirty one thousand eight hundred thirty six, eight annas, and six pice (CRs. 31836-8-6) received here of Charles Manningham and Willm Frankland Esqr at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling three hundred ninety nine, ten shillings and three pence (£st 399-10-3) payable to Henry Speke and Henry Doidge Esqrs or order for current rupees three thousand five hundred fifty one, three annas and nine pice (CRs. 3551-3-9) received here of William Mackett on account William Brereton Esqre at 2s. 3d. per rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one thousand seven hundred eighty four, four shillings and three pence (£st 1784-4-3) payable to David Finlay Esqr or order for current rupees fifteen thousand eight hundred fifty nine, ten annas and nine pice (CRs. 15859-10-9) received here of William Mackett Esqr at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one thousand nine hundred twenty three, fifteen shillings (£st 1923-15) payable to John Browne Esqre or order for current rupees seventeen thousand one hundred (CRs. 17100) received here of William Mackett Esqre account the estate of Robert Saunderson deceased at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one hundred fifty six, one shilling and six pence (£sterling 165-1-6) payable to John Brown Esqre or order for current rupees one thousand three hundred eighty seven, five annas, six pice (CRs. 1387-5-6) received here of William Mackett Esqre account Miss Mary Eyre at 2s. 3d. per rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling sixty eight, twelve shillings and three pence (£st 68-12-3) payable to Messrs Fetherstonhaugh and Brown or order for current rupees six hundred eight, fifteen annas, nine pice (CRs 608-15-9) received here of William Mackett Esqr at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling seven hundred eighty seven and ten shillings (£st 787-10) payable to Henry Speke and Henry Doidge Esqrs or order for current rupees seven thousand (CRs. 7000) received here of William Mackett Esqre at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling seven hundred eighteen, nineteen shillings and nine pence (£718-19-9) payable to Mrs Elizabeth Biggs or order for current rupees six thousand three hundred ninety one (CRs. 6391) received here of Captain John Mackmath account Mrs Mary Gwyn at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two hundred (£st 200) payable to Captain John Mackmath senior or order for current rupees one thousand seven hundred seventy seven, twelve annas and six pice (CRs. 1777-12-6) received here of Capt. John Mackmath senior on his own account at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two thousand (£st 2000) payable to Captain John Cudmore or order for current rupees seventeen thousand seven hundred seventy seven, twelve annas and six pice (CRs. 1777-12-6) received here of Captain John Cudmore at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two thousand (£st 2000) payable to Edward Stephenson Esqr or order for current rupees seventeen thousand seven hundred seventy seven, twelve annas and six pice (CRs. 1777-12-6) received here of Mr. Thomas Holmes at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two thousand fifty seven, ten shillings (£st 2057-10) payable to Mr. Bryan Scottney and John Fleming Esqr or order for current rupees eighteen thousand two hundred eighty eight fourteen annas, and three pice (CRs. 18288-14-3) received here of Messrs Playdell, Howitt and White at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling five thousand seven hundred fifty nine, eight shillings and eight pence (£st 5759-8-8) payable to Thomas Manningham and Laurence Sullivan Esqrs or order for current rupees fifty one thousand one hundred ninety four, fifteen annas and six pice (CRs. 51194-15-6) received here of Charles Manningham Esqr and Mr. Stanlake Batson on account Mrs Frances Watts at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling six thousand eight hundred sixty three, nine shillings and ten pence (£st 6863-9-10) payable to Benjamin Longnet and Joseph Guinand Esqr or order for current rupees sixty one thousand eight and thirteen annas (CRs. 61008-13) received here of Charles Manningham, Wm. Mackett and Luke Srafton Esqrs account the estate of Mr. Nicholas Clerembault deceased at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two thousand (£st 2000) payable to Mr. John Smith or order for current rupees seventeen thousand seven hundred seventy seven, twelve annas, six pice (CRs. 1777-12-6) received here of Mr. John Smith at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling seven thousand five hundred thirty seven and ten shillings (£st 7537-10) payable to Messrs Samuel Bennett Smith and Henry Allen or order for current rupees sixty seven thousand

(CRs. 67000) received here of Mr. Charles Douglas account the estate of Mrs James Douglas deceased at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling five hundred (£st 500) payable to Laurence Sullivan Esqr and Dr. John Munro or order for current rupees four thousand four hundred forty four and seven annas (CRs. 4444-7) received here of Mr. Culling Smith at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds ten thousand four hundred thirty four, seven shillings and eleven pence (£10434-7-11) payable to Henry Speke and Charles Browne Esqrs or order for current rupees ninety two thousand seven hundred fifty, three annas and three pice (CRs. 92750-3-3) received here of William Mackett Esqre on account Henry Speke Esqr at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling three thousand (£st 3000) payable to William Davis Esqre or order for current rupees twenty six thousand six hundred sixty six, ten annas and nine pice (CRs. 26666-10-9) received here of John Zephaniah Holwell Esqre at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one thousand one hundred thirty three and three shillings (£st 1133-3) payable to Captain Nathaniel Jacobs or order for current rupees ten thousand seventy two, seven annas and three pice (CRs. 10072-7-3) received here of John Zephaniah Holwell and Richard Becher Esqrs at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two hundred fifty (£st 250) payable to Messrs Nettleton and Raikes or order for current rupees two thousand two hundred twenty two, three annas and six pice (CRs. 2222-3-6) received here of Mr. Harry Verrelst at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling eight hundred sixty six, nineteen shillings and ten pence (£st 866-19-10) payable to William Davis Esqr or order for current rupees seven thousand seven hundred six, nine annas and nine pice (CRs. 7706-9-9) received here of John Zephaniah Holwell Esqr and Mr. John Knox, on account of Mr. George Heath at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one thousand five hundred forty five, eighteen shillings and four pence (£st 1545-18-4) payable to Thomas Waters Esqr or order for current rupees thirteen thousand seven hundred forty one, seven annas and six pice (CRs. 13741-7-6) received here of Mr. Anselm Beaumont for proceeds of coral marked CI CB per ship *Hardwick* No. 15, and further part restituted on two chests AB. No 3 & 7 per *York* at 2s. 3d. per rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one thousand one hundred and twenty five (£sterling 1125) payable to Edward Savage Esqr or Capt. Charles Fowles or order for current rupees ten thousand (CRs. 10,000) received here of Mr. Anselm Beaumont at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One set for pounds sterling two thousand twenty five (£st 2025) payable to Messrs Gamon and Challoner or order for current rupees eighteen thousand (CRs. 18000) received here of Mr. Anselm Beaumont at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one hundred seventy five, three shillings

and one penny (£st 175-3-1) payable to Christopher Baron Esqr or order for current rupees one thousand five hundred fifty six, fifteen annas (CRs. 1556-15) received here of Mr. Anselm Beaumont at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one hundred ten, seven shillings and three pence (£st 110-7-3) payable to Abraham Prado Esqr or order for current rupees nine hundred eighty one (CRs. 981) received here of Mr. Anselm Beaumont at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling four hundred ninety two, three shillings and two pence (£st 492-3-2) payable to Mr. Charles Brett or the Reverend Mr. Robert Palk or order for current rupees four thousand three hundred seventy four, twelve annas and three pice (CRs. 4374-12-3) received here of Mr. Anselm Beaumont at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one thousand one hundred sixty eight, five shillings and seven pence (£st 1168-5-7) payable to Messrs Samuel Bennett and John Coxon or order for current rupees ten thousand three hundred eighty five, one anna and six pice (CRs. 10385-1-6) received here of Mrs Mary Warwick on account the estate of Nathl Wilson deceased, at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two thousand two hundred and fifty (£st 2250) payable to Richard and William Chauncey and Richard Scrafton or order for current rupees twenty thousand (CRs. 20,000) received here of Mr. Luke Scrafton at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two thousand (£2,000) payable to Captain Robert Campbell or order for current rupees seventeen thousand seven hundred seventy seven, twelve annas and six pice (CRs. 17777-12-6) received here from Capt. Robert Campbell at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling sixty seven and ten shillings (£st 67-10) payable to Mr. William Ferguson or order for current rupees six hundred (CRs. 600) received here of Captain Keir at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling four thousand seven hundred nine, nineteen shillings and seven pence (£st 4709-19-7) payable to Joseph and Francis Fowke or order for current rupees forty one thousand eight hundred sixty six and eight annas (CRs. 41866-8) received here of Captain Peter Duncan on account Mrs Sophia Duncan at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two hundred (£st 200) payable to Mr. James Tierney or order for current rupees one thousand seven hundred seventy seven, twelve annas and six pice (CRs. 1777-12-6) received here of Mr. Samuel Middleton account the estate of Francis Vasmer at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling fifty (£st 50) payable to Henry Hastings Esqre or order for current rupees four hundred forty four and seven annas (CRs. 444-7) received here of Samuel Middleton on his own account at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pound sterling twenty (£st 20) payable to Mr. William Ellis or order for current rupees one hundred seventy seven, twelve annas, six pice (CRs. 177-12-6) received here of Mr. Charles O'Hara at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling thirty (£st 30) payable to Mrs. Elizabeth Howitt or order for current rupees two hundred sixty six, ten annas and nine pice (CRs. 266-10-9) received here from Mr. Charles O'Hara at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling thirty two thousand eight hundred eighty one, twelve shillings and two pence (£st 32881-12-2) payable to the Hon'ble Sir Edward Clive Knight and William Belchier, Richard Clive and William Smith King Esqrs. or order for current rupees two hundred ninety two thousand two hundred eighty, fifteen annas and six pice (CRs. 292280-15-6) received here of Robert Clive Esqre at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling three hundred (£st 300) payable to Edward Stephenson Esqr. or order for current rupees two thousand six hundred sixty six, ten annas and nine pice (CRs. 2666-10-9) received here of Mr. Thomas Holmes at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling five thousand (£st 5000) payable to John Kelsall Esqr. or order for current rupees forty four thousand four hundred forty four, eight annas, and six pice (CRs. 44444-8-6) received here of Edmd. Maskeyne Esqr. at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling three thousand (£st. 3000) payable to Wm. Waller, James Adams and Henry Brougham Esqrs. or order for current rupees twenty six thousand six hundred sixty six, ten annas, and nine pice (CRs. 26666-10-9) received here of Mr. Samuel Waller on his own account at 2s. 3d. per rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling seven hundred forty two and ten shillings (£st 742-10) payable to Henry Allen Esqr. or order for current rupees six thousand six hundred (CRs. 6600) received here of Mr. George Gray Senr. at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling five hundred ninety five, four shillings and four pence (£st 595-4-4) payable to Henry Allen Esqr. or order for current rupees five thousand two hundred ninety, thirteen annas (CRs. 5290-13) received here of Mr. George Gray senior account the estate of Captain Alex Robertson deceased at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one hundred seventy six, nineteen shillings and three pence (£st 176-19-3) payable to Henry Allen Esqr. or order for current rupees one thousand five hundred seventy three (CRs. 1573) received here of George Gray senior on account the estate of Stair Dalrymple deceased at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling five hundred thirty, one shilling and two pence (£st 530-1-2) payable to George Knapton Esqre or order for current rupees four thousand seven hundred eleven and ten annas (CRs. 4711-10) received here of Roger Drake Esqr. on account the estate of William Knapton at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling nine hundred (£st 900) payable to Messrs Gosling and Bennet or order for current rupees eight thousand (CRs. 8000) received here of Mr. William Fullerton at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling thirty four, twelve shillings and two pence (£st 34-12-2) payable to Gabriel Snodgrass or order for current rupees

three hundred seven and ten annas (CRs. 307-10) received here of Mr. William Fullerton at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling six hundred twenty four, fifteen shillings and one penny (£st 624-15-1) payable to Alexander McLeod or order for current rupees five thousand five hundred fifty three, six annas and three pice (CRs. 5553-6-3) received here of Mr. William Fullerton at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one thousand six hundred sixty nine, six shillings and seven pence (£st 1669-6-7) payable to Matthew Collet Esqre or order for current rupees fourteen thousand eight hundred thirty eight, seven annas and six pice (CRs. 14838-7-6) received here of Messrs Collet, Mackett, and Boddam account Nich. Robert Sanderson, at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling three hundred eighty two and ten shillings (£st 382-10) payable to Mr. William Ferguson or order for current rupees three thousand four hundred (CRs. 3400) received here of Mr. William Fullerton on account the estate of Mr. Walter Johnson at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling five hundred sixty two, ten shillings (£st 562-10) payable to Mr. John Gay or order for current rupees five thousand (CRs. 5000) received here of Mr. William Fullerton at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling twenty eight, 2 shillings and six pence (£st 28-2-6) payable to Captain George Meard or order for current rupees two hundred and fifty (CRs. 250) received here of Mr. William Fullerton at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one hundred sixty eight and fifteen shillings payable to Mr. William Nixon or order for current rupees one thousand five hundred (CRs. 1500) received here of William Fullerton at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling four hundred and fifty (£st 450) payable to David Robertson Esqr or order for current rupees four thousand (CRs. 4000) received here of Mr. William Fullerton at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling six thousand seven hundred fifty (£st 6750) payable to William Fullerton or order for current rupees sixty thousand (CRs. 60,000) received here of Mr. William Fullerton at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one hundred ninety five, fifteen shillings and eleven pence (£st 195-15-11) payable to William Davis Esqr or order for current rupees one thousand seven hundred forty, six annas and six pice (CRs. 1740-6-6) received here of John Zephth. Holwell Esqr. on account the estate of Robert Wilkinson deceased at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling thirty three and fifteen shillings (£st 33-15) payable to Mrs. Elizabeth Howitt or order for current rupees three hundred (CRs. 300) received here of Mr. Samuel Howitt at 2s. 3d. per rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one thousand three hundred and fifty (£st 1350) payable to Laurence Sullivan and Thomas Manningham Esqrs.

or order for current rupees twelve thousand (CRs. 12000) received here of Charles Manningham and Wm. Frankland Esqrs. at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling fifty seven and nine pence (£st 57-0-9) payable to Mosch and Raphael Franco or order for current rupees five hundred and seven (CRs. 507) received here of Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqrs. at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling six thousand one hundred sixty eight, three shillings and ten pence (£st 6168-3-10) payable to Frederick and Thomas Frankland Esqrs. or order for current rupees fifty four thousand eight hundred twenty eight, six annas and three pice (CRs. 54828-6-3) received here of William Frankland Esqr. at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling five hundred (£st 500) payable to John Warde Esqre. or order for current rupees four thousand four hundred forty four and seven annas (CRs. 4444-7) received here of Mr. William Fullerton at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling five thousand six hundred, four shillings and eight pence (£5600-4-8) payable to Edward Holden Cruttenden Esqr. or order for current rupees forty nine thousand seven hundred seventy nine, twelve annas and nine pice (CRs. 49779-12-9) received here of Mr. William Fullerton at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling four hundred six, four shillings and nine pence (£st 406-4-9) payable to William Ferguson or order for current rupees three thousand six hundred and eleven (CRs. 3611) received here of Mr. William Fullerton on account the estate of Francis Stephenson at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling five hundred eight and one shilling (£st 508-1) payable to Jonathan Ranson or order for current rupees four thousand five hundred and sixteen (CRs. 4516) received here from Mr. William Fullerton at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling five hundred sixty two and ten shillings (£st 562-10) payable to William Barwell Esqre. or order for current rupees five thousand (CRs. 5000) received here of Mr. William Fullerton at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two thousand eight hundred twelve and ten shillings (£st 2812-10) payable to Richard and William Chauncey, and Richard Scrafton or order for current rupees twenty five thousand (CRs. 25000) received here of Mr. Luke Scrafton at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one hundred (£st 100) payable to Mrs. Mary Bodley or order for current rupees eight hundred eighty eight, fourteen annas, and six pice (CRs. 888-14-6) received here of Mrs. Sarah Mapletoft at 2s. 3d. per rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling sixty seven, five shillings and six pence (£st 67-5-6) payable to Jones Raymond and Mrs. Elizabeth Knapton or order for current rupees five hundred ninety eight (CRs. 598) received here of Captain Thomas Fenwick account the estate of Mr. Cs. Knapton at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling fourteen, two shillings and four pence

(£st 14-2-4) payable to David de Castro or order for current rupees one hundred twenty five and eight annas (CRs. 125-8) received here of Roger Drake Esqr. in part value of one chest false amber at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling fifty, fourteen shillings (£st 50-14) payable to Abraham and Jacob Franco or order for current rupees four hundred fifty and eleven annas (CRs. 450-11) received here of Roger Drake Esqr. in part value of one chest coral imported per ship *Denham* 1754 marked B No. 3 at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling thirty six, eleven shillings and six pence (£st 36-11-6) payable to Moseli Franco & Company or order for current rupees three hundred twenty five and two annas (CRs. 325-2) received here of Roger Drake Esqre. in part value of one chest of coral imported per ship *Denham* 1754 marked [Mark No. 22] No. 3 at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling ninety one, twelve shillings and four pence (£st 91-12-4) payable to Jacob di Natal, Levi Sonsino & Co. or order for current rupees eight hundred fourteen and six annas (CRs. 814-6) received here of Roger Drake Esqr. in part value of 2 chests coral imported per ship *Eastcourt* 1755 LS No. 19 and AL No. 1 and of 1 chest amber beads imported per ship *Norfolk* 1754 marked LS No. 27 at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one thousand one hundred sixty two, sixteen shillings (£st 1162-16) payable to Richard and William Barwell Esqrs. or order for current rupees ten thousand three hundred thirty six (CRs. 10336) received here of Roger Drake Esqre in part value of two chests coral imported per ship *Duke of Dorset* 1755 marked RB No. 14 and 15 and two chests coral imported per ship *Eastcourt* 1755 RB No. 16 and 17 and eight chests of amber beads marked RB No. 3 and 4 imported per *Egmont* 1753, No. 5 imported per ship *Falmouth* 1753, No. 11 imported per ship *Norfolk* 1754, No. 14 and 16 imported per ship *York* 1754, No. 18 imported per ship *Duke of Dorset* 1755 and No. 19 imported per ship *Eastcourt* 1755 at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two hundred sixteen, two shillings and three pence (£st 216-2-3) payable to Mr. William Ferguson or order for current rupees one thousand nine hundred twenty one (CRs. 1921) received here of Mr. Archibald Gairdner at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling three thousand one hundred twenty six, thirteen shillings and eleven pence (£st 3126-13-11) payable to Archibald Grant Esqr. or order for current rupees twenty seven thousand seven hundred ninety two, thirteen annas and nine pice (CRs. 27792-13-9) received here of Mr. George Clive at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one hundred twenty nine, sixteen shillings and six pence (£st 129-16-6) payable to Archibald Grant Esqr. or order for current rupees one thousand one hundred fifty four (CRs. 1154) received here of Captain Joseph Adnet account the estate of Lieut. James Bush at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling three hundred sixty four and ten shillings (£st 364-10) payable to Henry Crab Boulton Esqr. or order for current

rupees three thousand two hundred and forty (CRs. 3240) received here of Mr. Thomas Maunsell at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two hundred forty nine (£st 249) payable to Mrs. Ann Rayner and Mr. John Edwin or order for current rupees two thousand two hundred thirteen, five annas and 6 pice (CRs. 2213-5-6) received here of Captain Alexander Champion at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two thousand two hundred and fifty (£st 2250) payable to Mr. John Sedgewick or order for current rupees twenty thousand (CRs. 20,000) received here of Captain James Ward at at 2s. 3d. per rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one thousand (£st 1000) payable to Arthur Annesley Esqr. and Mr. Burgess or order for current rupees eight thousand eight hundred eighty eight and fourteen annas (CRs. 8888-14) received here of Mr. William McGuire at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one hundred forty one, twelve shillings and four pence (£st 141-12-4) payable to Miss Rachael Senior or order for current rupees one thousand two hundred fifty eight, thirteen annas and three pice (C Rups. 1258-13-3) received here of Mr. Ascanius William Senior on account the estate John Parker deceased at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling sixty (£st 60) payable to Miss Rachael Senior or order for current rupees five hundred thirty three, five annas and three pice (CRs. 533-5-3) received here of Mr. Ascanius William Senior at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one thousand seventy one (£st 1071) payable to Roger Drake senior Esqre. or order for current rupees nine thousand five hundred and twenty (CRs. 9520) received here of Roger Drake Junr. Esqr. account Captain Richard Drake at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling sixty seven and ten shillings (£st 67-10) payable to George Ballard Esqr. or order for current rupees six hundred (CRs. 600) received here of Mr. Henry Lushington account the estate of Mr. George Ballard junior at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling five hundred (£st 500) payable to George Whatley Esqr. or order for current rupees four thousand four hundred and forty four and seven annas (CRs. 4444-7) received here of Mr. George Clive account Lieut. Giles Stibbert at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one thousand eight hundred forty seven, nineteen shillings and four pence (CRs. 1847-19-4) payable to Henry Muilman Esqr. or order for current rupees sixteen thousand four hundred and twenty six, five annas and nine pice (CRs. 16426-5-9) received here of John Zephaniah Holwell Esqre at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling five hundred forty three, eighteen shillings and one penny (£st 543-18-1) payable to William Davis Esqr. or order for current rupees four thousand eight hundred thirty four, eleven annas and six pice (CRs. 4834-11-6) received here from Charles Manningham and J. Z. Holwell Esqrs. at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two thousand (£st 2000) payable to Edmund Maskelyne Esqr. or order for current rupees seventeen thousand seven hundred seventy seven, twelve annas and six pice (CRs. 17777-12-6) received here of George Clive Esqr. at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling nine hundred twenty six, seventeen shillings and six pence (£st 926-17-6) payable to Miss Jane Sumner or order for current rupees eight thousand two hundred thirty eight, fourteen annas and three pice (CRs. 8238-14-3) received here of Messrs Sumner and Holmes at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling three thousand (£st 3000) payable to the Reverend Doctor John Sumner and Mr. Robert Sumner or order for current rupees twenty six thousand six hundred sixty six, ten annas and nine pice (CRs. 26666-10-9) received here of Mr. William Sumner at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling three hundred (£st 300) payable to John Gay or order for current rupees two thousand six hundred sixty six, ten annas and nine pice (CRs. 2666-10-9) received here of Mr. William Sumner at 2s. 3d. per rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling six thousand (£st 6000) payable to Edward Stephenson Esqre. or order for current rupees fifty three thousand three hundred thirty three, five annas and six pice (current rup. 53333-5-6) received here of Mr. Thomas Holmes at 2s. 3d. per rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling three thousand six hundred fifty seven and four shillings (£st 3657-4) payable to Roger Drake Senr. and Beeston Long Esqrs. or order for current rupees thirty two thousand five hundred eight and eight annas (CRs. 32508-8) received here of Roger Drake Junr. Esqr. account John Frazer at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

199. We have wrote to the Presidencies of Fort St. George and Bombay and have permitted them to draw on us for whatever sums of money they may be in want of. We have likewise sent them private bills for as much as we could procure payable to their Presidency.

Supplement

200. In reply to the 169 paragraph of your commands of the 3 March we beg leave to acquaint you we have examined the affair of ship *Doddalay*. We think the payment for that ship's cotton might have admitted of dispute before the battle of Placy but that now it will admit of none as due regard was had thereto in estimating the Company's losses, and restitution thereon included in the crore of rupees. The Company have besides had credit for a part of the *Doddalay's* cotton found in the fort at 25 rupees per maund whereas the owners were only allowed 20 rupees per maund by the Company; it does not appear to us that during the whole of this transaction there was the least fraud or intention of fraud or any other circumstance that can possibly reflect the least dishonour on the owners of the said ship.

201. The transaction mentioned in the 170th paragraph of your said commands was likewise taken into consideration, and it appearing not only by the Sub-Treasurer's deposition but also by Messrs Manningham and

Frankland's Bengal Cash Book, the *podar's* memorandums and other evidence that Messrs Manningham and Frankland could be no ways interested in this transaction, that the said money was actually paid into the treasury and for bills of exchange before advice had [sic] of the loss of Cossimbuzur or march of the Nabob's army towards Calcutta, we are of opinion the Honble Company became accountable for this sum, and that the Board acted with propriety in granting a bond for the same to those gentlemen and that this demand made the 6th August 1756 cannot be deemed an after thought in Mr. Frankland with intention to load the Company with the loss.

202. Should the Prussian supracargoes tender us any goods belonging to that Company we shall comply with your orders in purchasing the said goods if procurable on very reasonable terms and shall give their bills on Your Honours for what moneys they may tender on account of goods sold by them to the Company.

203. We shall order to be sent home by the latter ships copies of all bills received at Fultah of 500 rupees and upwards for your satisfaction.

204. The principal and, we believe, only intention of those who applied for attested copies of their interest notes was that they might send the originals to Fort St. George or any other place of security, but as an accident might have happened to the ship they were sent upon, the attested copies would have shewn that such bonds did really exist at the time they were tendered to the Board. We shall, conformable to your orders, call in the copies and grant no more in future.

205. Upon paying the interest of any bond we always did and still continue to endorse off the sum paid specifying particularly whether it was for interest or for part of the principal. Your Honours may be assured we calculated the interest we paid after the loss of the place from the time of the last endorsement. Enclosed we transmit a copy of our interest notes.

206. In consequence of the orders contained in the 176 paragraph of your letter dated 3rd March we transmit you in this packet an application from Mr. George Williamson for payment of the bond in his name. The proofs he mentions, Your Honours will observe, are as strong and clear as the nature of such an affair will admit, and we are convinced in ourselves that the bond in that young gentleman's name had not been discharged before the capture of the settlement. We therefore recommend his case to your consideration and doubt not you will be satisfied of his claim on the Company, and direct the amount of the said bond with interest to be discharged. In like manner we transmit you application from Mr. Bartholomew Plaisted and from Messrs Boddam and Smith, wardens of the church, for the charity stock. Their proofs and evidence you will observe by their letters and we beg leave to add that it is our opinion the said bonds were not discharged or endorsed over to others at the capture.

207. The currency of *siccas* coined in our mint being an object that deserved our best attention and the high *batta* of our rupees last year being universally complained of, and one apparent reason for their not being received but with difficulty and murmur, we took the reduction of *batta* into our serious consideration on the 1st May and after consulting several shroffs, *podars* and merchants came to a determination to fix the *batta* of current *siccas*

at 16 per cent better than current rupees and of *sunnaits* at 11 per cent. All other rupees were to be esteemed a merchandize and the *batta* of them to fluctuate as the bazar rose or fell but for the conveniency of those who had any three *sun siccas* (the last year's) we agreed to receive them in the treasury at 13 per cent as it would have been rather a gain than a loss to the Company, the 3 *sunns* being at many *aurings* of equal value with the four *sunns* or new *siccas*.

208. You will observe by the face of that day's consultation that the Board agreed to call in all *siccas* that had been coined in our mint and issued out of the treasury for payment. Our reasons for so doing you will find entered at large in that consultation and we flatter ourselves the justice of our proceeding will be acknowledged and approved of by Your Honours.

209. The amount of some bonds in Mr. Douglas's possession being paid him in Calcutta *siccas* and not returned in time to our treasury to receive the benefit of our notification we refused to make good the *batta* of that money till it could be made sufficiently evident to us that the Company would not pay it twice in case Mr. Douglas received it. That gentleman's account of the transaction and the assurance Omichund gave us that he had sent the Calcutta *siccas* which he received from Mr. Douglas to Muxadavad satisfied us that the Company had not been charged with the difference of *batta* on that sum, and as it would have been a great hardship on Mr. Douglas to have lost that benefit which everybody else had received we agreed to make it good to him in the same manner as it had been paid to others.

210. The ship *Restitution* being freighted last year to carry the French prisoners to the Coast and the owners indemnified in the sum of 45,000 current rupees in case of her being seized and detained by the French, which actually happened afterwards, Captain John Durand, of whom we freighted her, applied to the Board for payment of that sum, being since informed that she was burnt and destroyed. As Captain Durand, who was to have gone commander of that ship, returned from Ingelie without our knowledge or orders and did not proceed agreeable to his contract, instructions and the tenour of his pass we did not esteem the Company responsible for the consequences. We have therefore refused to pay that demand.

211. In order to avoid, if possible, the charges of a law suit we agreed to leave it to the decision of four arbitrators to determine if the Company were liable to pay the owners of ship *Restitution* the sum she was indemnified for; that the arbitrators not being able to settle it, Captain Durand has commenced a prosecution in the Mayor's Court for the recovery thereof.

212. Enclosed are copies of Captain Durand's letters and our answers on the occasion for your observation.

213. In the course of our consultations you will observe that thirteen natives had been appointed commissioners to examine and establish the estimates of Jentoo and Moors sufferers at the capture of Calcutta in June 1756, who delivered in the 19 June an abstract of the sums they had established for such persons as had tendered them their accounts to be examined, which abstract was confirmed on that day, and a dividend of four annas in the rupee ordered to be paid the respective sufferers out of the money at that time received from the Nabob on their account. This dividend was paying

out of the treasury when a petition was presented us from several of the black inhabitants complaining of having received great injustice from the Commissioners in passing their accounts and intimating that their own accounts and those belonging to their friends and relations had been partially examined. In order to trace out if this complaint was well founded or not we ordered Messrs Rider, Johnstone and Senior to enquire what grounds the complainants had for their allegation against the Commissioners and if there appeared any malpractice on the part of the latter. Their report is entered after our consultation of the 10th August and charges the black Commissioners with many irregular and unjust proceedings, particularly that they had curtailed the bulk of estimate laid before them in a much greater proportion than they had their own or those of their friends and relations. The Commissioners having desired leave to justify themselves from the charge laid against them we permitted them to give in their reply which is likewise entered after our consultation and a second letter from Messrs Rider, Johnstone and Senior is entered after our proceedings of the 18 September in support of their charge. As we had not leisure ourselves to undertake a minute scrutiny into the account of the Commissioners in order to be satisfied if they had acted collusively or partially in passing their own accounts, we requested the gentlemen committed to examine the European estimates to take the trouble of making the enquiry, and have empowered them to re-examine and finally establish the claims of the black Commissioners.

214. Your Honour will observe that we have appropriated a part of the Armenian Fund for satisfaction of the losses suffered by the Portuguese. The Commissioners for examining the Armenian and Greek estimates being likewise suspected of collusive and partial practices, we desired the European Commissioners to revise the accounts of that people and ordered them to lay the said accounts before those gentlemen which after much trouble they have complied with. Their accounts were entirely closed and an abstract of their claims laid before us by the European Commissioners on the..... instant amounting to current repays..... principal, to which the Commissioners have added an interest of 15 per cent. The abstract of principal sums we have confirmed but have referred it to Your Honours to allow of the 15 per cent interest or to order the surplus to be received on that account to be appropriated to some other use.

215. Messrs Burdett, Lashington and Gray desire leave to return Your Honours their most humble and gratefull thanks for the favour conferred on them in your commands of the 11 November 1757, and assure you at the same time that so sensible a mark of your esteem will be the strongest incitement to them to exert themselves in their duty to their employers and in their zeal for the Company's interest on all occasions.

216. In consequence of your orders per *Hardwicke* Mr. Alexander Scott has been appointed Deputy Master Attendant, and we beg leave to recommend him to your notice as a person who has given us great satisfaction in the services he has been employed upon, having always executed our orders with alacrity and fidelity and shewn himself, upon all occasions, a person capable of the charge of your marine and one who has a thorough knowledge of the river. We hope therefore the nomination of Mr. Scott to succeed Captain Barton as Master Attendant will be confirmed by Your Honours.

217. Messrs Mackett and Boddam have on the 27 instant minuted their intention of returning to Europe next season of which we think it proper to advise you.

218. We have appointed Mr. Culling Smith to succeed Mr. Cooke in the posts of Secretary and Military Pay Master.

219. Mr. William Shewen having laboured for some time past under a very bad state of health and the doctors esteeming it necessary for him to return to Europe for the recovery thereof, we have permitted him to take his passage on one of the ships to be dispatched from hence this season, which we hope will meet your approbation.

220. Since closing our second head of goods from Europe the broad cloth and copper received this season have been put up at outcry and an account sale thereof is transmitted in this packet, by which you will observe the copper marked [Mark 29] had sold on a medium at nine rupees per maund more than the other sortments of plate copper though invoiced from England at the same price. We must likewise take notice that only 300 maunds of the copper in imitation of Japan is sent us this year, notwithstanding the Board have repeatedly acquainted Your Honours of the superior value of that sortment.

221. We have the pleasure to inform you that the transactions of the English in these provinces have met with approbation at the Mogull's Court and that our President has received a *sunnud* from Delhi constituting him a *munsab* of 6000 in rank and of 5000 horse in power. Translate of this *sunnud* is forwarded by the Select Committee in their country correspondence.

222. We shall duly attend to your orders for getting our priviledges confirmed by the Mogul if a favourable opportunity offers for obtaining such a *phirmaund* and it can be done without any great expence.

223. The Dutch having given the Nabob great offence by their behaviour in not showing him the proper respect due to him as Subah of these provinces he has put a total stoppage to their business in all parts of the country. They have now three ships in the river which they cannot dispatch for want of loadings and we think it probable those ships will be very late from Bengal (and their cargoes not equal in value to what they usually send on their ships) if they are able to get away at all.

224. Before we close this letter we beg leave to remark that our supplies of money from the Government account the treaty will be at an end in December 1759 or the beginning of the year 1760, that we cannot depend on any large sums being paid in next year of bills on the Company nor do we believe it will be easy to borrow money in future from the natives. The great part of the sums we may this season receive in our treasury for bills of exchange and on account of the treaty will be exhausted in supplying Fort St. George Presidency, our subordinates and *aurungs*, in the necessary expences of the settlement and in compleating the citadel; we request therefore Your Honours will, in future, continue to send us the usual consignments of bullion for the provision of our investment and other uses; otherwise we shall labour under many difficulties and possibly lose the advantage of making early purchases. If ingots of silver of the *sicca* standard could be sent out as is practised by the Dutch it would be extremely useful and, we imagine, turn out cheaper to the Company than the expence of refining the dollars in this

country. It would likewise prevent all possibility of debasing the coin of our mint which is a circumstance of the utmost consequence and must be well attended to.

225. Enclosed we forward 5 silver rupees and four gold *mohurs* coined in our mint for your inspection.

226. The *Worcester* is just arrived in the river from Visagapatam. We shall begin loading her with bale immediately and hope to get her away by the 20th January. The *London* will be dispatched to Bencoolen next week and the *Warren*, with 200 tonne of pepper and 4 or 500 bales, to Fort St. George about the middle of January.

227. On this ship we have laden sundry goods and merchandise as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed amounting to current rupees 8,50,000.

228. We have likewise laden on her sundry stores for the use of the island of St. Helena amounting to current rupees 1045-2-6.

229. Captain James Barton who dispatches this ship from Ingelie will advise Your Honours of what else is necessary from hence.

230. We wish her a safe and speedy passage and are with the greatest respect,

May it please Your Honours,
Your faithfull humble servants,
Robert Clive / Richd. Becher.

Calcutta, the 31st December 1758.

Transcribed per John Wollaston 1782.

44

LETTER DATED 31 DECEMBER 1758

Particulars of Col. Forde's expedition against the French near Vizagapatam—Distressed condition of the French in the South—Complaint about Danish assistance to the French—Removal of Roy Durlabh from the post of Chief Minister—The Nawab's relations with the Company—Disregard of treaties by Muhammadans—Nawab's old age and incapacity—Law's activities in Oudh—Evasive replies to the proposal to appoint the President collector of revenues due to the Mughal Emperor from the Nawab of Bengal—Reasons for strengthening the Company militarily in Bengal—Political condition of India—Type of recruits sent to Bengal.

TO the Hon'ble Secret Committee for Affairs of the Hon'ble East India Company.

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,

I. We have been favoured with both your letters of the 8th March 1758.

2. We addressed you the 11th of November¹ by the opportunity of a Dutch conveyance, a duplicate of which letter we herewith send you as also duplicates of our letters per *Elizabeth* under date 2nd March.

3. We also herewith transmit to you two sets of the country correspondence, the one from the dispatch of the March ship to the time of Colonel Clive's taking charge of this Presidency and the other commencing from thence and brought up to the present time.

4. The purport of our last letter was principally to inform you of an armament we had sent into the Deckan under the direction of Colonel Forde. The advices lately received from thence have greatly confirmed to us the expediency of that measure. Monsieur Conflans, who has succeeded Monsieur Bussy in his command, was within but a few days' march of the Rajah and it is hardly to be doubted but that he would have defeated him and re-established himself in Vizagapatam etc.; however Colonel Forde's seasonable arrival obliged him to retreat and he had actually, as the Colonel informs us in a letter under date the 20th October, repassed the river at Rajah'smindry. The Colonel was determined to march the 1st of November to join the Rajah (who was encamped with an army of 12,000 men about 25 miles from Vizagapatam) and then proposed in conjunction with his forces to move towards the enemy as the French are said to amount to no more than 300 Europeans and 6 or 7,000 *seapoys*. We are in hopes of soon hearing favourable accounts from that quarter. Should we succeed (as we have reason to flatter ourselves we shall) in extirpating the French from the Golconda province it will be an important point gained to the Company: the enemy will thereby be deprived of almost the only resource they have had during the war, our squadron will have it in their power more effectually to distress them by intercepting their succors and supplies, as they will then have only the port of Pondicherry open to receive, and in these parts we shall be free from any apprehensions of their undertaking anything against us by land; there will not be a Frenchman within 400 leagues of us so that no expedition can be attempted but by sea which can never be effected but with a superior squadron and even then the difficulties of getting a footing in this province are of so complicated a nature as to render any such design very hazardous and uncertain.

5. Notwithstanding the great efforts made by the French in sending out Monsr. Lally with a considerable force and their success at Fort St. David (which does not appear to us to have been so well defended as the strength and importance of the place deserved), yet the miscarriage before Tanjour and the loss they had sustained both from sickness and desertion had suspended their progress, and we are of opinion if vigorous and prudent measures be pursued upon this coast the French will be reduced to a very low ebb by the end of the next year.

6. On the arrival of the King's troops, whom we may now shortly expect, the enemy will have no great superiority in point of numbers, to make up for which, we have room to think, we shall have the advantage in the goodness of the men; much indeed will depend upon the arrival of our squadron on the Coast before that of the enemy. We have therefore taken every opportunity of recommending to Mr. Pocock the utmost dispatch in getting his ships ready to return early thither. The plenty of money and provisions with

which we can at all times supply the gentlemen of Madrass will enable them to carry on any of their designs whereas the total want the French are in of both, and without any visible means of redress, renders it almost impossible for them to undertake anything of moment. Our fleet we hope will be in time to cut off all communication from the French by sea, and as it has been hinted to the gentlemen of Madrass to take a body of Morattoes into their pay, if these be received accordingly and properly employed, the country will be so effectually ruined that the French will find it hard to draw a subsistence from thence and indeed their situation is already very deplorable as you may judge from the enclosed extract of a letter intercepted by us. It was wrote by the secretary of the principal Commissary to Monsr. Conflans' secretary and there can be no doubt of the genuineness of the relation as it comes from one of themselves and from a person who, by his stile, seems to be thoroughly acquainted with and to feel for their distresses. Over and above this want of money we are well assured there is a great scarcity of gunpowder among them and this is an article they have little hopes of being relieved in, except from here, as we have the whole of the salt petre in our hands. We can't here avoid complaining of the partial behaviour of the Danes to the French, the Chief of the factory here having last year sent a ship to Pondicherry laden with that commodity and provision which proved a seasonable relief to the enemy, and this gentleman has been constantly the channel through which the correspondence has been carried on between the Coast and the French, who through our indulgence have remained in this province, as appears by several packets directed to the Chief which, being opened by us, were found only to serve as covers to the French letters. In this indeed he only follows the example of his superior, the Governor of Tranquebar, who notoriously assisted Monsr. Lally in the attempt upon Tanjour as you, no doubt, will have heard from the gentlemen of Madrass. The Danes so avowedly assisting our enemys has obliged us to have a watchfull eye over them and to take the steps necessary to prevent their continuing such a conduct. This has occasioned several protests from them though in justice they ought either to have thanked us for our lenity since a single word from us to the Nabob would have been sufficient to have had them expelled the province. The French have made so ill a use of our indulgence in permitting them to reside in their former settlement that we have judged it necessary to retract it and have determined that no subject of France shall remain any longer here. We have accordingly sent directions to as many as remained to hold themselves in readiness to proceed to the Coast upon the first vessels so that we shall soon be entirely clear of them.

7. At present a perfect tranquillity reigns in Bengal. The Nabob appears to continue the same attachment he has hitherto shewn to the English and the change which has lately happened in the ministry by the removal of Roydulub has not, as we yet perceive, affected our interest at the *darbar*. It is hard to say how long this tranquillity may last, Meer Jaffir is advanced in years, moreover he is but a weak prince and, as such, there is no answering how far he may be influenced by evil counsellors, especially as we are well convinced his son (who is a cruel worthless young fellow) is no hearty friend to the English. It behoves us therefore to provide against the worst and there is no other way to preserve the vast acquisitions we have made or to support our present influence but by constantly keeping

President to use his interest with the Subah to comply with the royal mandate in paying the revenue due to the Mogul from his subahship; and you will observe in the book of correspondence by letters from Sitaub Roy² the Vizier's agent, that the Court is extremely desirous of appointing the President the collector of this revenue amounting to 50 laack of rupees annually. The person invested with this employ, who is stiled the king's *duan*, is the second man of rank in the kingdom; such a dignity annexed to your Presidency would give extraordinary weight to the Company in the empire which nothing could be able to remove; however though repeated proposals have been made to the President yet at this critical conjunction he has been under the necessity of evading them and managing his answers in such a manner as to protract time in the expectation of a more favourable opportunity. The accepting this employ might occasion jealousy on the part of the Subah and we are unwilling to cause him any dissatisfaction at a time when our small force is engaged another way, especially as you gentlemen give us so little hopes of reinforcements from home. We flatter ourselves, upon mature reflexion, you will be for pursuing more vigorous measures than has hitherto been the plan; should you think otherwise we can only lament that so fair an opportunity of making the Company all and all in the rich kingdom of Bengal should be lost.

10. As a further inducement to engage you to exert your utmost efforts in this province you will please to consider that we are now wholly without rivals; the French are entirely expelled and the Dutch, provided we have a force sufficient to keep up the influence we at present have over the country Government, will be altogether at our mercy. On the preservation of this influence, besides the many other advantages, depends the very well being of your settlement on the West Coast. The Dutch have obstructed us there to the utmost of their power but they will never dare again playing the same game while they have so much at [stake] in this province. We shall be able to shut up all the channels of their trade, many articles of which are of the utmost importance to them, to instance only that of opium, the being deprived of that commodity will be so heavy a stroke upon Batavia that the gentlemen in the management of affairs they will always be very cautious how they disoblige us.

11. We have now gentlemen, we hope, made the necessity of a force here as apparent to you as it is to ourselves, it only remains then to ascertain what force may be requisite to answer the intended purposes. The Indian Empire is actually torn by intestine commotions; the Morattoes, who once bid fair for recovering their country, have lately received a severe check from Nizam Allee and little or nothing is now to be apprehended from them as they are divided among themselves. The French, we flatter ourselves, have too much upon their hands on the Coast to bestow any attention upon us. All these favourable circumstances considered we are of opinion that the keeping up constantly a body of 2,000 Europeans will put you in a condition of embracing the first occasion that shall offer of further aggrandizing the Company.

12. You will learn that the gentlemen at Madrass have wrote to us very strenuously for Colonel Forde with his command being ordered to proceed thither if he should succeed in his design upon Masulipatam and the adjacent

country. We are very sensible how necessary it is to enable those gentlemen to make head against Monsr. Lally but then it behoves us to look after ourselves; should we send our troops so far out of our reach and the French squadron arrive before ours, our defenceless state might, perhaps induce the enemy to make a push directly for this river, and such an attempt might be attended with fatal consequences. We have well weighed this matter and shall therefore defer giving any directions of that sort to Colonel Forde till Mr. Pocock's return when, should such a measure be necessary, it may be complied with without any hazard to ourselves.

13. Before we close this letter we beg leave to remark, it were much to be wished for the good of your service that some other method were thought on for the recruiting your forces. While it is carried on in the present manner we can never expect good men and indeed those we receive are very often fitter for an hospital than for duty. Business of this nature, on which so much depends, should never be carried on by contract as we believe it will be very hard to find any contractor so disinterested as to prefer the publick to his own interests, and therefore it may naturally be presumed that instead of taking the best men he will chuse those that can be got cheapest and these will be always the worst.

14. You may depend upon our punctually observing the directions contained in your letter relative to the west coast of Sumatra, and doing everything in our power towards carrying into execution the schemes you have projected for the benefit of that settlement.

We are, with the greatest respect,

Honble Sirs,

Your most obedient humble servants.

Robert Clive / William Watts / Richd. Becher.

Fort William, 31st December 1758.

P.S. There being a great scarcity of servants and an extraordinary weight of business in the Select Committee Office we must beg your excuses for your not having cyps of the proceedings from January to June and of the letters sent from June last, but they shall be prepared and sent by the next ship.

LETTER DATED 8 JANUARY 1759

Loading of pepper from Fort Marlborough—Despatch of saltpetre and redwood from Calcutta.

TO the Hon^{ble} the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon^{ble} United
Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honors,

1. Agreeable to what we advised you in our address of the 31st ultimo per *Ilchester* we now dispatch the ship *London* to Fort Marlborough to take in what surplus pepper may be laying there; we have laden on her sundry stores for the use of that settlement as also for the island of St. Helena.

2. Enclosed we transmit you bill of lading and invoice of redwood and saltpetre laden on the *London* with copies of the papers relating to that ship.

3. We have the pleasure to acquaint you that we yesterday received advice of the arrival of the *Bombay Castle*, Captain Doveton. He parted company with the *Prince George* in the Cape of Good Hope, and as her people on board were very sickly the commander of her intended putting into the Cape.

4. We wish the *London* a safe and speedy passage and are,

May it please Your Honours,

Your most faithful and most obedient humble servants,

Robert Clive / Richd. Becher / W. Frankland / J. Z. Holwell / W. Mackett / John Cooke.

Fort William, 8th January 1759.

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LETTER DATED 25 JANUARY 1759¹

Shipping news—Col. Forde defeats Conflans—Bills of Exchange.

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honors,

1. We addressed you last by the *London* which ship sailed for Bencoolen the 15th instant. The *Ilchester* who carried our address under the established heads left Ingellie the 8th instant; duplicate of which shall be forwarded by the *Worcester* who will be dispatched for Europe directly some day next week.

2. The 7th instant the *Bombay Castle* arrived in the river and the 16th instant the *Prince George* imported. We have stationed the latter to proceed directly to Europe in the month of February with the remainder of our investments and have appointed the *Bombay Castle* to go first to Madrass and then to relieve the *Hardwick*, which ship we shall order to proceed from Vizagapatam to Bencoolen and take in the surplus pepper the gentlemen at that settlement may have in warehouse.

3. We have the pleasure to acquaint Your Honors that the *Pitt* was safe in the Straights of Malacca in her way to China which intelligence we have received by a country vessel lately arrived from the eastward. In her passage

across the Bay she met with a French ship, which we take to be the *Centaur*, and exchanged two or three broadsides with her.

4. By the *Mermaid* sloop, which returned from Vizagapatam the 13th instant, we had the satisfaction to learn that Colonel Forde on the 7th ultimo gained a compleat victory over the Marquis Conflans and the troops under his command, which success, we hope, will facilitate the carrying on the investments in those parts as well if not better than formerly.

5. Notwithstanding what we wrote you per *Ilchester*, many of the gentlemen of Council being loaded with two posts and some of the members being absent at subordinates, we have thought it necessary to call Messieurs William Brightwell Sumner, William McGuire and John Cooke to the Board.

6. By this ship we have granted the following bills of exchange payable at three hundred and sixty five days after sight and on the same terms as those on the *Ilchester*.

One sett for £st. 187-7-3 payable to Miss Amelia Moore or order for CRs. 1661-13-3 received here of Mr. Thomas Cooke on account of Miss Amelia Moore at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for £st. 60 payable to George Barne Esqr. or order for CRs. 533-5-3 received here of Mr. Thomas Cooke account of Miles Barnes Esqr. at 2s. 3d. each.

One sett for £st. 250 payable to Captain Richard Thelwall or order for CRs. 2222-3-6 received here of Mr. Thomas Cooke account of Capt. Richard Thelwall at 2s. 3d. each.

One sett for £st 305-14 payable to George Mandeville Esqr. or order for CRs. 2716-6 received here of Mr. Thomas Cooke account of George Mandeville Esqr. at 2s. 3d. each.

One sett for £st. 236-12-10 payable to Henry Allen Esqr. or order for CRs. 2103-8 received here of Mr. George Gray senior on account the estate of Mr. James Kinloch at 2s. 3d. each.

One sett for £st. 124-14-6 payable to Henry Allen Esqr. or order for CRs. 1108-12 received here of Mr. George Gray senior account the estate of Mr. Hughes deceased at 2s. 3d. each.

One sett for £st. 65-13-5 payable to Henry Allen Esqr. or order for CRs. 583-12 received here of Mr. George Gray senior account the estate of Mr. Perry Purple Templer deceased at 2s. 3d. each.

One set for £st. 100- payable to Mr. Francis Holwell or order for CRs. 888-14-3 received here of William Brightwell Sumner Esqr. at 2s. 3d. each.

One sett for £st. 101-2-5 payable to Mrs. Sarah Chapman or order for CRs. 898-13-9 received here of her at 2s. 3d. each.

One sett for £st. 900- payable to Captain Grainger Muir and Mr. John Thompson or order for CRs. 8000 received here of Messieurs O'Hara, Hay and Howitt account of Captain Grainger Muir at 2s. 3d. each.

One sett for £st. 3000 payable to Mr. William Ferguson or order for CRs. 26666-10-9 received here of Mr. William Forth at 2s. 3d. each.

One sett for £st. 1172-8-9 payable to Richard Becher Esqr. and Mr. William Nixon or order for CRs. 11421-10-6 received here of Thomas Boddam Esqr. account of Mr. Francis Sykes at 2s. 3d. each.

One sett for £st. 100 payable to Mr. James Potter or order for CRs. 888-14-3 received here of Mr. William Rider account Captain Joseph Price at 2s. 3d. each.

One sett for £st. 6000 payable to William Davis Esqr. or order for CRs. 53333-5-6 received here of John Cooke Esqr. at 2s. 3d. each.

One sett for £st. 1000 payable to John Walsh Esqr. or order for CRs. 8888-14 received here of Messieurs Hay and Lushington account John Walsh Esqr. at 2s. 3d. each.

One sett for £st. 100- payable to Stephen Law Esqr. or order for CRs. 888-14-3 received here of Mr. John Cartriz at 2s. 3d. each.

One sett for £st. 475-1-9 payable to Henry Allen Esqr. or order for CRs. 4223 received here of Mr. George Gray senior at 2s. 3d. each.

One sett for £st. 1000 payable to Richard and William Henry Chauncey Esqrs. and Mr. Richard Scrafton or order for CRs. 8888-14 received here of Mr. Luke Scrafton at 2s. 3d. each.

One sett for £st. 3091-10-10 payable to Henry Muilman Esqr. or order for CRs. 27480-6-9 received here of John Zephaniah Holwell Esqr. at 2s. 3d. each.

One sett for £st. 2000 payable to Mr. William Davis Esqr. or order for CRs. 17777-12-6 received here of John Zephaniah Holwell Esqr. at 2s. 3d. each.

One sett for £st. 4000 payable to Captain David Rannie or order for CRs. 35555-8-9 received here of him at 2s. 3d. each.

One sett for £st. 2000 payable to Captain David Rannie or order for 17777-12-6 received here of him at 2s. 3d. each.

The whole amounting to CRs. 234504-13-6 or £st. 26382-19-11.

We have laden on the ship sundry stores for the island of St. Helena and have transmitted invoice and bill of lading for the same to the Deputy Governor and Council of that Island.

We are with the greatest respect,

May it please Your Honors,

Your most faithful and most obedient humble servants,

Robert Clive/Richd. Becher/W. Frankland/Thos. Boddam/C. S. Playdell/
John Cooke.

Fort William, 25th January 1759.

LETTER DATED 8 FEBRUARY 1759

Holwell appointed Import Warehouse Keeper—Death of Capt. Delaval—Wilder's stay in Bengal extended—Establishment of Residency at Radhanagar—Madeira wine requisitioned—Steps taken to stop Danish supplies from reaching the enemy—Sample of muga silk forwarded to England—McGuire appointed Chief of Lakshmipur—Suspension of Pearkes—Bills of Exchange.

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honours,

1. Enelosed we transmit you a letter designed to have been sent by the *Warren* via Madrass, but the news which the Select Committee have communicated to us of the situation of that place has obliged us to alter our plan of disposing of your ships which we have now stationed as follows: the *Worcester* proceeds directly for Europe with about eleven hundred bales, the *Prince George* will follow her with much the same quantity and the *Bombay Castle* or the *Hardwick*, if she arrives in time, will carry the remainder of our investments, for which purpose we have countermanded our orders for her being sent to the West Coast, and have directed Colonel Forde to dispatch her to us as soon as she can be spared. The *Warren* was dispatched to Madrass the 5th instant but as she had a considerable sum in bullion and gold on board we have judged it most prudent to unlade the bales, which were shipped before the receipt of the late advices, and have left it to the gentlemen of Madrass either to dispatch her home this season or keep her in India another year as they may find most convenient. In case the *Hardwick* returns in time to be dispatched home this season the *Bombay Castle* will proceed to Madrass and from thence to Vizagapatam if it be thought necessary to keep a ship there.

2. The Board having appointed Mr. Holwell to the Import Warehouse, one of the posts destined for him by Your Honors when you appointed the rotation of four Presidents, we have thought proper to give him the salary then annexed by your order to that post as we think none of your subsequent directions forbid it. We likewise strongly recommend to Your Honours the continuance of the same salaries to the successors of those four posts distinguished in your letter of the 3 March 1758, and particularly that the salaries of the Land Custom Master and the Collector of the Revenues be equal to the Sea Custom Master as the labor in executing those posts will equal or rather exceed that of the other.

3. Captain Robert Delaval having died in his passage to India and his brother being arrived on the *Prince George*, the Board upon his application to the President for his brother's vacant company took into consideration that request, and it appearing from our Hon'ble Masters' letter of the 12 May 1758 that the said company was raised entirely at Captain Delaval's expence, we were of opinion it was but equitable to confer it on his brother who was an

officer in the Guards and a captain in Lord Effingham's Regiment and who, from the universal good character he bears as a soldier and a gentleman, we have reason to think will be a credit to our corps and of service to our employers. We therefore agreed to give him a commission to command the same and think this step is no prejudice to the other officers on our establishment as it is equal to them whether the present gentleman or the deceased Captain Delaval had the command of that company.

4. Your Honors will find in the packet by this ship a remonstrance delivered in by the subaltern officers on this establishment complaining of the injury of your sending abroad captains to succeed to the first vacant companies. We cannot help thinking they have great justice on their side and more especially so as we are informed some of them have been in your service before at other settlements and have quitted it not altogether with the approbation of their superiors, who are of opinion that if there be a necessity of sending out officers of rank they should be such whose characters are unexceptional and whose knowledge and experience in military affairs may render them worthy the commission you may think proper to honor them with.

5. The officers on this establishment having petitioned to us to indent to you for necessaries for their regimentals we enclose their petition and request you will comply with it.

6. By this packet we forward a letter received from Mrs. Sarah Mapletoft concerning the loss of two Company's bonds, one in the name of Irwin Institute dated [.....] for current rupees 5084-7-9, one in the name of Robert Mapletoft dated [.....] for current rupees 1188-1-6, which we submit to your consideration and believe, from the circumstance set forth in the above mentioned letter, that those bonds really existed at the time of the capture and that they were lost in the plunder of Fort William. We have likewise been applied to by the Accomptant General of the Mayor's Court for the payment of the following bonds deposited in our treasury by Mrs. Sophia Aratoon before the capture:

One in the name of Amend Cawn dated 13 May 1753 for principal	1782-2-3
One in the name of Amend Cawn dated 15 June 1753	... 1308-0-0
One in the name of Jonkeyram dated 15 June 1753 for	... 2771-0-0

CRs. 5861-5-0 [sic]

We have been obliged to refer this affair to Your Honors as we are not clearly satisfied whether the Company are liable to pay them from the terms of His Majesty's Charter which indemnified them from any claim for deposits in case of the loss of the settlement by an enemy or by fire; but as our employers have received ample restitution for all their losses we are of opinion that demands of that nature ought to be made good by the Company.

7. By private advices we have had the pleasure to hear that Captain Tiddeman with the two men of war and the six (6) China ships under his convoy arrived at Bombay the 15th November.

8. In consequence of a letter wrote us by Mr. Andrews at Vizagapatam of his expecting no supply from Madras for some time, we sent him on the *Mermaid* sloop a few days ago three thousand five hundred gold *mohurs*

and have laden on the *Warren* two lack of *sonaut* rupees and twenty six thousand short *Areot* rupees for carrying on the investments and for the military operations under Colonel Forde.

9. The situation of affairs at Madras having determined Mr. Becher to remain in India another season we have given him the charge of the post allotted him in your commands of the 3rd March 1758.

10. Mr. Richard Wilder having represented to us that the completing his intended regulations in the silk manufacture will require his remaining at Cossimbuzar another season, and there being a prospect of his effecting them within that period and of their proving very beneficial to the Company, we have given him our permission to stay in Bengal another year and have advised the gentlemen of Madras of our having done so.

11. In your orders concerning raw silk you having approved of the Tanners silk and the sortment provided at Radnagore resembling that the most, we have thought proper to establish a Residency at that place for the provision of that article and have appointed Hugh Watts to that employ, who is set out and has carried with him five thousand rupees to begin the business. He has our order likewise to get the best intelligence of the consumption of your exports from England and whether any considerable quantity might be disposed of at that *aurung*, and is also directed to inform himself how your investments are carried on there by your *gomastahs* and whether that branch of business might be conducted more advantageously in any other manner.

12. We have this season been much distressed for want of the annual supply of Madeira wine and therefore request you will next year send us a larger quantity than usual as the consumption is now become much greater than formerly.

13. We having had great reason to think that the Danes have supplied our enemies with provisions and saltpetre, in order to prevent the like practices we have detained a ship of theirs about to sail out of the river, as they alledged, for Tranquebar and have sent her under the escort of the *Warren* to the gentlemen at Madras that she might not carry her provisions to our enemies which might be attended with the worst of consequences. The Danish gentlemen have protested against us on this occasion. Nevertheless we have thought it proper to run the risque of the Company's being at some charge on this account rather than hazard our enemies being supplied with provisions at this critical juncture. Upon this account Captain Glover applied to us to give him an indemnification in case of law suits upon that occasion which we have executed on behalf of the Company.

14. In the packet by this ship Your Honours will observe an address from Mr. Holwell to the Board, accompanying a letter to the Commissioners for examining the estimates of losses sustained by the Europeans by the capture of this settlement, setting forth the hardship he laboured under by their having rejected his demands on account a French bond he was possessed of and which was plundered with the rest of his effects at the capture. Though we have not thought ourselves authorised to reverse the decree of the Commissioners we cannot but be of opinion that his case is singular and particularly hard and therefore take the liberty to recommend it to your

consideration whether, as there will be a surplus after all the demands are discharged, he will not be entitled to the amount of his bond.

15. On the *Worcester* we forward a small bag of *mugga* silk by way of trial as we imagine that commodity is yet unknown in England. If it meets your approbation we believe about one hundred bales may be provided and considerably cheaper too than what the present parcel is invoiced at by purchasing up the country under the direction of the gentlemen at Dacca. We have likewise sent a bundle of *mugga* dooties for your inspection which are made of the *mugga* silk.

16. Mr. McGuire having applied to us for the Chiefship of Luckypore, and the Company in their instructions of the 3 March having nominated one of the members of the Board as Chief of that factory, we have appointed him to the same.

17. Mr. Pearkes having delivered to us a letter addressed to Your Honors, under date the 20th December last, in further vindication of himself against Mr. Amyatt's charge and the censure of this Board, in duty to our honble employers and in support of our own judgment and sentence on Mr. Pearkes we find ourselves under the disagreeable necessity of speaking again to this subject, and that Your Honors may the more easily investigate this transaction we beg leave to lay before you, in one view, the following state of the case from which we are apprehensive we shall rather incur your displeasure in having proceeded against Mr. Pearkes with too much lenity in place of the severity that gentleman complains of. Mr. Pearkes was ordered to Patna and instructed by our letter of the 7 May to inform us what could be done there for the benefit and advantage of the Company and to transmit to us the lowest prices the petre and other parts of your investment could be provided for to enable us thereby to judge of the propriety of resettling that factory. Soon after Mr. Pearkes's arrival there he advised the Board, under date the 12th July, that two substantial merchants of Patna would contract with the Company to deliver between 40 and 50,000 maunds of petre in Calcutta at 5-2¹ clear of all charges whatever. The Board observing the petre would be cheaper on these terms than the Company had received for many years assented to the contract being made with the above two merchants. Mr. Pearkes again advises the Board that he had actually made the contract with the two merchants and subsequently forwards to Calcutta 5,000 maunds of petre as part of the said contract as appears from extracts of his several letters, now transmitted to Your Honours, under date the 12th and 18th July 1757, the 4th and 9th August, the 11th and 19th September, the 8th October, the 3rd and 26th December 1758. Through this series of letters Mr. Pearkes alludes occasionally to this contract with the two merchants without ever once mentioning himself, directly or indirectly, as the contractor with the Company, a plea he has taken up only since the detection of his conduct.

18. The Board conceiving cause for recalling Mr. Pearkes from Patna, Mr. Amyatt was appointed to succeed him who transmitted to the Governour a charge against Mr. Pearkes importing that during his Chiefship he had purchased some quantities of petre from different *assammies* at a very low price and had converted the Company's *carconnahs* at Singhy and Chuprah to his own use, which charge the Governour laid before the Board in

consultation the 7th September 1758 and Mr. Pearkes was directed to give a satisfactory answer to the charge.

19. Mr. Pearkes put in his reply the 14th September in Council which with his first address to Your Honors went by the ships of that season without any further scrutiny or animadversions from the Board occasioned by the variety of matters before them of more important consequences, but when the posts and chiefships came under consideration on the arrival of the ships *London* and *Warren* we thought it incumbent on us to resume the enquiry into this transaction before any post of trust was committed to Mr. Pearkes his conduct.

20. Accordingly the Board appointed Messrs Mackett, Boddam and Scrafton a committee of facts who delivered their report to us the 7th December and which was entered in the consultation of that day.

21. The report of the committee being read in Council the 7th of December Mr. Pearkes was interrogated to the several matters of the charge and particularly to nominate the two merchants with whom he had made the contract on behalf of the Company, which he evaded several times, asserting notwithstanding that there were such merchants and that he would nominate them if the Board would give him time, though in manifest contradiction to the plea he had before used of himself being the contractor, but being further pressed on this head he once named Mheer Ashrog as one of them but afterwards retracted this nomination and now, in his almost unintelligible address to Your Honors of the 20th December 1758, declares that Moonholl, the Dutch Chief's *banyan*, and Major Coote were the two merchants mentioned in his letters to the Board.

22. In tenderness to Mr. Pearkes we omitted giving our sentiments in consultation on the latter part of Mr. Amyatt's charge touching the Company's *carconnahs* at Chuprah and Singhy which he now forces from us. His plea that those *carconnahs* could not be worked before they were refreshed with *cutch* petre cannot, we think, answer any purpose in his defence nor vindicate his converting such refreshment to his own use. We think Mr. Pearkes may with parity of reason seize his neighbour's house to his own emolument because it lies unoccupied but what will be Your Honors' further conclusion when you find Mr. Pearkes confesses, in his examination before the committee, that the produce of the refreshment of your own *carconnah* was part of the petre sent down to us on the fictitious contract with the two merchants at 5s. 2d.² per maund.

23. On the whole Mr. Pearkes appeared to us as having from first to last imposed two merchants upon the Board who did not exist whilst himself was covertly the contractor, that he purchased the petre at 3s. 4d.³ per maund which he invoiced at 5s. 2d.⁴ per maund to the Company and that he unjustly converted their *carconnahs* to his own use and profit, rendering himself thereby in our judgments guilty of a breach of that trust reposed in him by the Board to whom his conduct appeared unfaithfull, collusive and disengenuous, and in consequence we thought it indispensibly our duty to suspend him from our councils till Your Honors' pleasure be known.

24. We have granted the following setts of bills of exchange on Your

Honors payable at three hundred and sixty five days after sight and on the same terms as those by the *Hecheater* and *Warren*.

One sett for pounds sterling five thousand (£Str 5000) payable to Mr. Thos. Holme for current rupees forty four thousand four hundred and forty four, eight annas and six pice (CRs. 4444-8-6) received here of Thos. Holme at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two thousand (£Str 2000) payable to Mr. Edwd. Stevenson for current rupees seventeen thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven, twelve annas and six pice (CRs. 1777-12-6) received here of Mr. Thomas Holme at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling seven hundred and seven, four shillings (£Str. 707-4) payable to Thos. Waters Esqr. for current rupees six thousand two hundred eighty six, three annas, six pice (CRs. 6286-3-6) received here of Mr. Anselm Beaumont for proceeds of one chest of coral beads imported on the ship *Hardinge* marked G C B No. 22 at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two hundred twenty five (£Str. 225) payable to Mrs. Catherine Beaumont for current rupees two thousand (CRs. 2000) received here of Mr. Anselm Beaumont account the estate of Mr. Will Dogan received at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one hundred eighty nine, one shilling and eight pence (£Str. 189-1-8) payable to Christopher Baron Esqr. for current rupees one thousand six hundred and eighty, twelve annas (1680-12) received here of Mr. Anselm Beaumont at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one hundred and twelve, ten shillings (£Str. 112-10) payable to Mr. Jacob de Castro Sarmiento M.D. and Henriquey de Castro Sarmiento for current rupees one thousand received here of the Revd. Padre Bento de St. Monica at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling six hundred seventy five (£Str. 675) payable to Mr. Robert Nicholl for current rupees six thousand (CRs. 6000) received here of Messers Geo. Hayter and James Hodges at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two hundred sixty three, seventeen shillings and two pence (£Str. 263-17-2) payable to Mr. Benjamin Way for current rupees two thousand three hundred forty five, six annas and six pice (CRs. 2345-6-6) received here of Mr. George Hayter at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling four thousand (£Str. 4000) payable to Captain Jno. Durand for current rupees thirty five thousand five hundred fifty five, eight annas and nine pice (CRs. 3555-8-9) received here of Mr. Thos. Cooke on account of Captain Jn. Durand at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling fifty (£Str. 50) payable to Mr. Hugh Baillie for current rupees four hundred forty four, seven annas (CRs. 444-7) received here of Captain Hugh Baillie at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling fifty (£Str. 50) payable to Doctor Jno. Andree and Captain Nich Webb for current rupees four hundred forty four, seven annas (CRs. 444-7) received here of Mr. Jno. Putham account the estate of Willm. Nightingale at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one thousand one hundred sixty two, sixteen shillings payable to R. and W. Barwell for current rupees ten thousand three hundred thirty six (CRs. 10336) received here of Messrs Culling Smith and Anselm Beaumont, attorneys for Roger Drake Junr. Esqr., in part value of two chests of coral imported per ship *Duke of Dorset* 1755, marked R. B. No. 14-15; two chests of coral per ship *Eastcourt* 1755 R. B. No. 16 and 17 and eight chests of amber beads RB No. 3 and 4 per ship *Egmont* 1753, No. 5 per *Falmouth* 1753, No. 11 per ship *Norfolk* 1754, No. 14 and 16 per ship *Yorke* 1754, No. 18 per ship *Duke of Dorset* 1755, No. 19 per ship *Eastcourt* 1755, at 2s. 3d. per rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling ninety one, eleven shillings and six pence (£Str. 91-11-6) payable to Jacob de Natal, Levi Sensino and Company for current rupees eight hundred and fourteen (CRs. 814) received here of Messrs Culling Smith and Anselm Beaumont, attorneys for Roger Drake junior Esqr., in part value of two chests of coral beads imported per ship *Eastcourt* 1755, LS No. 19 and AL No. 1 and of a chest of amber beads imported per ship *Norfolk* 1754, marked LS No. 27 at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling fourteen, two shillings and four pence (£Str. 14-2-4) payable to Mr. David de Castro for current rupees one hundred twenty five, eight annaes (CRs. 125-8) received here of Messrs Culling Smith and Anselm Beaumont in part value of one chest of false amber at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling fifty, twelve shillings and six pence (£Str. 50-12-6) payable to Abraham and Jacob Franco for current rupees four hundred and fifty (CRs. 450) received here of Messrs Culling Smith and Anselm Beaumont in part value of one chest of coral imported per ship *Denham* 1754 marked B No. 3 at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling thirty six, eleven shillings and six pence (£Str. 36-11-6) payable to Moseh Franco and Company for current rupees three hundred twenty five, two annaes (CRs. 325-2) received of Messrs Culling Smith and Anselm Beaumont in part value of one chest of coral imported per ship *Denham* 1754 marked [Mark 1] No. 3 at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two hundred and nine, thirteen shillings and two pence (£Str. 209-13-2) payable to Mr. Benjamin Way for current rupees one thousand eight hundred and sixty three, ten annaes (CRs. 1863-10) received here of Mr. George Hayter at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling five hundred and fifty (£Str. 550) payable to Captain Thos. Rumbold or order for current rupees four thousand eight hundred and eighty eight, fourteen annaes and three pice (4888-14-3) received here of Captain Thos. Rumbold at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling six hundred eighteen, fifteen shillings (£Str. 618-15) for current rupees five thousand five hundred (CRs. 5500) received here of Mr. Geo. Gray Senr. account Mr. Willm. De Legarde at 2s. 3d. each rupee payable to Captain Francis Cheyne and Geo. Dudley Esqr.

One sett for pounds sterling two hundred seventy five, nine shillings and eight pence (£Str. 275-9-8) payable to Thos. Mylne Esqr. account Mr. Gray for current rupees two thousand four hundred and forty eight, twelve annaes (CRs. 2448-12) received here of Mr. George Gray Senr. at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling seven hundred and nineteen, eleven shillings and five pence (£Str. 719-11-5) payable to William Davis Esqr. for current rupees six thousand three hundred and ninety six, three annaes and three pice (CRs. 6396-3-3) received here of Jno. Z. Holwell Esqr. account the estates of deceased persons at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One set for pounds sterling one thousand (£Str. 1000) payable to William Davis Esqr. on account Jno. Z. Holwell Esqr. for current rupees eight thousand eight hundred and eighty eight, fourteen annaes and three pice (CRs. 8888-14-3) received here of Jno. Z. Holwell Esqr. at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two thousand four hundred and sixty (£Str. 2460) payable to Messrs Henry Muilman and Jos. Solomans for current rupees twenty one thousand eight hundred and sixty six, ten annaes and nine pice (CRs. 21866-10-9) received here of J. Z. Holwell Esqr. at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling five hundred and thirty six, three shillings and seven pence (£Str. 536-3-7) payable to Willm. Davis Esqr. for current rupees four thousand seven hundred and sixty six, one annae (CR 4766-1) received here of Jno. Z. Holwell Esqr. account the estate of N. Drake at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one thousand (£Str. 1000) payable to Fred. and Thos. Frankland Esqrs. for current rupees eight thousand eight hundred and eighty eight, fourteen annaes and three pice (CR 8888-14-3) received here of William Frankland Esqr. at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one thousand (£Str. 1000) payable to Messrs. Jno. Hallet and John Saure for current rupees eight thousand eight hundred eighty eight, fourteen annaes and three pice (CR 8888-14-3) received here of Captain Jno. Sampson at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two hundred and fifty (£Str. 250) payable to William Davis and Richd. Baker Esqrs. for current rupees two thousand two hundred twenty two, three annaes, six pice (CR 2222-3-6) received here of John Zephaniah Holwell Esqr. and Mr. William Rider account the estate of Capt. John Coatsworth deceased at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two thousand two hundred and fifty (£Str. 2250) payable to Roger Drake junior Esqr., Bristow Long and Roger Drake senior for current rupees twenty thousand (CRs. 20000) received here of Messrs Culling Smith and Anselm Beaumont account Roger Drake junior Esqr. at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling twenty three, sixteen shillings and thr
pence (23-16-3) payable to Mrs. Ann Jermy for current rupees

One sett for pounds sterling two thousand five hundred and twenty nine, three shillings and six pence (£Str. 2529-3-6) payable to Josh Walsh Esqr. for current rupees twenty two thousand four hundred and eighty one, eight annaes and nine pice (CRs. 22481-8-9) received here of Messrs Wm. Hay and Henry Lushington account John Walsh Esqr. at 2s. 3d. per rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one thousand and twelve, seventeen shillings and six pence (£Str. 1012-17-6) payable to Messrs William and Edward Lampert for current rupees nine thousand and three, five annaes and three pice (CRs. 9003-5-3) received here of Mr. George Gray senior at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling five hundred and seventy five, seventeen shillings (£Str. 575-17) payable to Messrs Gosling and Bennett for current rupees five thousand one hundred and eighteen, ten annaes and nine pice (CRs. 5118-10-9) received here of William Fullerton Esqr. at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling nine hundred and sixty three, nineteen shillings and seven pence (£Str. 963-19-7) payable to William Barwell Esqr. for current rupees eight thousand five hundred and sixty eight, eleven annaes and six pice (CRs. 8568-11-6) received here of William Fullerton Esqr. at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling fifty (£Str. 50) payable to Mrs. Margaret Batson for current rupees four hundred and forty four, seven annaes (CRs. 444-7) received here of William Fullerton Esqr. account Mrs. Stanlake Batson at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling six hundred and seventy two, seven shillings and four pence (£Str. 672-7-4) payable to John Gray Esqr. for current rupees five thousand nine hundred and seventy six, seven annaes and six pice (CRs. 5976-7-6) received here of Willm. Fullerton Esqr. at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling five hundred and sixty two, ten shillings (£Str. 562-10) payable to Daniel Campbell Esqr. for current rupees five thousand (CRs. 5000) received here of William Fullerton Esqr. at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling nine hundred (£Str. 900) payable to Robert Orme Esqr. for current rupees eight thousand (CRs. 8000) received here of William Fullerton Esqr. account the estate of Mr. William Lindsay at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two thousand five hundred (£Str. 2500) payable to Captain David Rannie for current rupees twenty two thousand two hundred and twenty two, three annaes and six pice (CRs. 22,222-3-6) received here of Captain David Rannie at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one thousand one hundred and twenty five (£Str. 1125) payable to Mr. Thomas Raitt for current rupees ten thousand (Ck. 10,000) received here of Willm Fullerton Esqr. at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling thirty four, three shillings and one

penny three farthings (£Str. 34-3-13/4) payable to Mrs. Elly Dodd for current rupees three hundred and three, ten annas (CRs. 303-10) received here of Messrs James Barton and Willm. Rider account the estate of Mr. John Dodd deceased at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling three hundred and thirty seven, ten shillings (£Str. 337-10) payable to Mr. Willm. Nixon for current rupees three thousand (CRs. 3,000) received here of Willm Fullerton Esqr. at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling forty six, fifteen shillings and nine pence (£Str. 46-15-9) payable to Captain Pinson Bonham for current rupees four hundred and fifteen, fourteen annas (CRs. 415-14) received here of Willm. Fullerton Esqr. at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one thousand five hundred and seventy five (£Str. 1575) payable to John Fullerton Esqr. for current rupees fourteen thousand (CRs. 14,000) received here of Willm. Fullerton Esqr. account the estate of Mr. Robert Wark deceased at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling six thousand (£Str. 6,000) payable to John Fullerton Esqr. for current rupees fifty three thousand three hundred and thirty three, five annas and three pence (CRs. 53333-5-3) received here of Willm. Fullerton Esqr. at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling five thousand and sixty two, ten shillings (£Str. 5062-10) payable to William Watts Esqr. for current rupees forty five thousand (CRs. 45,000) received here of Willm. Fullerton Esqr. at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling four hundred (£Str. 400) payable to Willm. Barwell Esqr. for current rupees thirty five thousand five hundred and fifty five, nine annas (CRs. 35555-9) received here of Willm. Fullerton Esqr. account Mr. Peter Amyatt at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two hundred (£Str. 200) payable to Mr. Willm. Alexander for current rupees one thousand seven hundred seventy seven, twelve annas and six pence (CRs. 1777-12-6) received here of Mr. Thomas Blaney at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two thousand five hundred (£Str. 2500) payable to Edward Stevenson Esqr. for current rupees twenty two thousand two hundred and twenty two, three annas and six pence (CRs. 22222-3-6) received here of Mr. Thos. Holme at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling six hundred and seventy five (£Str. 675) payable to Eyre Coote and James Baird Esqrs. for current rupees six thousand (CRs. 6000) received here of Messrs Culling Smith and Willm. Rider account Eyre Coote Esqr. at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling fifty (£Str. 50) payable to Sir James Johnstone and Willm. Johnstone Esqr. for current rupees four hundred and forty four, seven annas (CRs. 444-7) received here of Messrs Willm. Rider and Ralph Leicester on account Mr. John Johnstone at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling seventy four, five shillings (£Str. 74-5) payable to Henry Allen Esqr. for current rupees six hundred and sixty

(CRs. 660) received here of Mr. George Gray senior account the estate of Mr. Willm. Grubb deceased at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling one thousand five hundred and seventy five (£Str. 1575) payable to M. Forde Esqr. for current rupees fourteen thousand (CRs. 14,000) received here of Thos. Boddam Esqr. at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling thirty (£Str. 30) payable to Mr. Patrick O'Hara for current rupees two hundred and sixty six, ten annas and nine pice (CRs. 266-10-9) received here of Mr. Chas. O'Hara at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling fifty (£Str. 50) payable to Mr. Joseph Hickey for current rupees four hundred and forty four, seven annaes received here of Messrs Leicester and Charlton at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling nine hundred and ninety seven, nineteen shillings and two pence (£Str. 997-19-2) payable to Thos. Godfrey Esqr. for current rupees eight thousand eight hundred and seventy, twelve annaes (CRs. 8870-12) received here of C. Manningham and William Frankland Esqrs. in full returns of two boxes of coral beads marked T. G. No. 1 and 2 imported per ship *Warren* 1758 at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling three thousand three [hundred] and seventy five (£Str. 3375) payable to Laurence Sullivan and Thos. Manningham Esqrs. for current rupees thirty thousand (CRs. 30,000) received here of C. Manningham and William Frankland Esqrs. at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling two hundred and forty two, two shillings and ten pence (£Str. 242-2-10) payable to Joseph Salvadore for current rupees two thousand one hundred and fifty two, six annaes and three pice (CRs. 2152-6-3) received here of C. Manningham and William Frankland in full returns for one box of coral beads marked [Mark 31] No.....imported per ship *Bombay Castle* 1759 at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

One sett for pounds sterling four hundred and twenty five, eighteen shillings and eight pence (£Str. 425-18-8) payable to Messrs Mosch Franco and Co. for current rupees three thousand seven hundred and eighty six, one annae and three pice (CRs. 3786-1-3) received here of C. Manningham and William Frankland Esqrs. in full returns of one box of coral F.C. No. 2 imported per ship *Warren* 1758 at 2s. 3d. each rupee.

25. We have laden on this ship sundry stores for the use of St. Helena, invoice and bill of lading for which we have transmitted to the Governor and Council of that island amounting to current rupees 1051-4-3.

26. Enclosed you will receive duplicate of our address by the *Ilchester* and invoice and bill of lading for goods laden on the *Worcester* amounting to CRs. 960,000.

27. Also the general books of this Presidency brought up to the 30 April 1758 which we have been under an unavoidable necessity of sending home open from the erroneous ballance which was taken on our return to Calcutta, it being out of our power to obtain the records of the transactions from April 1755 to June 1756, and it having been impracticable for us to ascertain a

general reform by the assistance to be had from the papers received by the ships of this season on account of their late arrival. We have directed the Sub-Accomptant to commence the books to be transmitted the ensuing year from the close of April 1755 having throughout a regard to the record received from England and the methods prescribed by your auditor. We wish her a safe and speedy passage to England and are

May it please Your Honours,
Your faithful humble servants,

C. Manningham / Richd. Becher / W. Frankland / J. Z. Holwell / W. Mackett /
Thos. Boddam / C. S. Playdell / John Cooke.

Fort William, the 8th February 1759.

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LETTER DATED 8 FEBRUARY 1759¹

Forde's victory—Details of French losses—Landing of French troops in the south—March of the Mughal Emperor's son towards Patna—Mir Jafar's critical position—Pocock's arrival at Bombay.

TO the Hon'ble the Secret Committee for Affairs of the Hon'ble East India Company.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. We addressed you last by the *Ilchester* under date the 31st December since which many important events have occurred which we have now the honour to communicate to you.

2. The expedition to Deccan has succeeded to the utmost of our expectations, Colonel Forde having gained a complete victory on the 7th December over the French army under the command of the Marquis De Conflans, consisting of five hundred Europeans and 8000 *seapoys* with Europe arms, with very little loss on our side. 85 of the French were killed and 78 taken prisoners exclusive of fourteen officers. He has also taken their camp and all their artillery consisting of 36 pieces of cannon with proportionable ammunition. By letters from Mr. Andrews since the action we learn that the Marquis De Conflans had collected together the shattered remains of his army and was encamped near Massulipatam and Colonel Forde after taking possession of Rajamundrum, a very strong fortified pass, had crossed the river Kistna in pursuit of the enemy but that his progress had been retarded by a dispute with the Rajah, which is since accomodated and they are marched together against Massulipatam. We have great reason to think the French do not intend to defend that place and hope Colonel Forde will soon make himself master of it which will not only extirpate the French out of Deccan, where they have triumphed unrivalled ever since the commencement of the war, keeping the wole country in an . . . and in actual

possession of four rich provinces which not only maintained their army but admitted of considerable remittances to Pondicherry. As we have put the Rajah in possession of large territories he has promised to pay the whole expence of the expedition which we are persuaded he will do when he begins to collect the revenue of his new acquisitions.

3. By a letter from the Committee of Fort St. George to Colonel Forde dated 17th December we have the disagreeable news of the French having laid siege to that place, that they entered the black town the 14th of that month, when the garrison made a sally, a sharp action ensued in which the number of killed and wounded was considerable on both sides, that Major Polier was amongst the latter, and on the part of the enemy they had taken prisoner the Count D' Estang, a Brigadier General, a captain of granadiers killed, Soubigne, an officer of great reputation among them mortally wounded and many others killed and wounded, as they learn from a letter from Monsr. Lally to the Count D' Estang. They write pressingly for Colonel Forde and his party and give us hopes their next advices will be the arrival of Mr. Teddyman's squadron with the Chinamen or at least the disappointment of the enemy.

4. In our last address we flattered ourselves we should be able to make head against our enemys on every side, though superior, but did not then conceive the French would have made such extraordinary efforts or that we should have been so poorly supported or, to speak more properly, so abandoned. By letters taken in Monsr. De Conflans' camp we learn the arrival of a third division at the islands of three King's and seven Company's ships commanded by Monsr. Dagriette. The number of troops already landed by Monsr. Lally have exceeded 3000. We cannot suppose the third division to have brought less than half the number, and the whole number of men landed at Madrass since the war has not reached to 300. Yet we presume the preparations of our enemy have been no secret in England. We are sorry it is our fate to contest against such unequal numbers but Your Honours may be assured of our exerting ourselves to the utmost of our power and abilities. We have directed Colonel Forde that should he have a prospect of immediate success against Massulipatam to prosecute the siege with vigor and if he has the good fortune to take it that he destroy the fortifications and proceed immediately to the assistance of Fort St. George. We have also sent to their assistance the company of the King's troops that arrived on the *London* who left this place the 7th instant, and the *Warren* left Ingellie the [. . .] with a supply of water and provisions.

5. By letters from Surat to some Armenian merchants here we learn that Mr. Teddemen with two men of war and six Indiamen arrived at Bombay the 15th November. We hope the Indiamen at least will be immediately dispatched with the troops to Madrass and that thus reinforced they will oblige the enemy to raise the siege.

6. At the time of the dispatch of the *Ilchester* we flattered ourselves the peace and tranquillity in Bengal would have been of long continuance but we now find it unexpectedly disturbed by the approach of the King's son who has fled from his father's court and arrived some time last month at Lucknow, about 8 days' march from Banaras, where he has been joined by some malecontents from different provinces and is since advanced towards

Patna. The great arrears the Nabob owes to his army together with the discontent of his officers at his having cut off two principal zemindars have rendered him very defenceless and makes it indispensibly necessary for the President to take the field, and though our number of troops is very small yet we are no way anxious for the event as the prince is come without the authority from court or money to maintain troops and by the last advices had but a small army with him.

7. Although we do not find that Mr. Pococke was arrived at Bombay the 15th November we nevertheless hope he will be on the Coast before the French fleet. The first naval engagement will probably decide the fate of India. Should he be so fortunate as to defeat the enemy and prevent their landing their troops we may once more hope for the superiority but should the fatal reverse happen and Madrass fall into the hands of the French, destitute as we are of men, fortifications and ammunition we know not how soon it may be our fate to march up the country and relieve Monsr. Laws; and on this occasion we cannot forbear to remark that considering the great acquisitions made by the success of your army in Bengal, both of an immense sum of money and a large grant of land, we had flattered ourselves you would have exerted your utmost efforts to support what has been so nobly acquired. But we find ourselves unhappily deceived, and even our indent for military stores so totally neglected, that the two last ships mentioned by Your Honours to be sent expressly to bring us military stores their whole invoice of that article amounts but to 1600 pounds sterling.

8. Inclosed is duplicate of our dispatches per *Ilchester* with the papers agreeable to the accompanying list.

We are,
with respect,
Honble Sirs,

Your most obedient humble servants.

C. Manningham / Richd. Becher / W. Frankland.

Fort William, [8] February 1759.

P.S. Since the above we have received advices from Colonel Forde of the 25th ultimo enclosing letters from Mr. Brooke, dated from on board the *Thames* off Pulicat the 10th and 11th January, which inform us that the enemy was still before Madrass and had raised five batteries, one of which mounted seven mortars, and for some days past had fired incessantly which had done great damage to the houses. By other letters of a much later date we learn Madrass was safe the 25th January, that Captain Caillaud was arrived in the neighbourhood of Madrass with 5,000 *seapoys* and 3000 Tanjour horse, that the garrison were in good spirits and thought they had nothing to apprehend from Monsr. Lally's present force. We have the mortification to find by Colonel Forde's letters of the 25th that he was still on the Rajamundrum side of the river not having been able to march for want of money, the Rajah having deceived him in every respect; however, that by Mr. Andrew's mediation the Rajah had consented to pay 168,000 for the expences of the army of which he had given bills for 66,000 and they were to march together immediately against Massulipatam; but for this unhappy quarrel Colonel Forde had probably long since been in possession of that place and on his way to the relief of Madras.

LETTER DATED 5 MARCH 1759

Nawab's request for English help against the Mughal Prince—Particulars of bills of exchange.

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for the Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honors,

1. We have already addressed you by the several ships of this season as per copies enclosed.

2. We presume the Select Committee acquainted you in their letter by the *Worcester* of the prospect there then was of troubles in the country by the invasion of the King's son. By the last account we had of him he continued on his march to the southward, on which account the Nabob made a pressing application for our troops to join him. Colonel Clive therefore set out the 1st instant with all the Europeans in garrison, and when he arrives at Muxadavad if he find it necessary will proceed to the northward with the Nabob.

3. As we conclude you were induced to alter the tenor of the bills of exchange on account of the great flow of private money obtained by the revolution [of] 1757, which, by the time this reaches you, we imagine, will be pretty well exhausted. We take the liberty to recommend to you the re-establishing ancient form of remittance as, otherwise, we apprehend, new channels will be found out for remitting whatever sums the inhabitants may in future have occasion to send home.

4. As you were pleased to inform us in your letter by the *London* and *Warren* that you had taken up the *Bombay Castle* and *Prince George* chiefly to comply with our indents for naval and military stores, we had great hopes of being amply supplied, but are sorry to take notice that the stores which we have received are so far from being sufficient that we have been under a necessity of buying all that we have been able to pick up at very advanced prices. And as to military stores it is not in our power to procure them at any rate forward of these articles. We have the mortification to think that though our fortifications advance very fast they must remain useless.

5. The Select Committee have laid before us a letter from Colonel Forde in which there is the following paragraph which we take the liberty to insert for Your Honors' observation: "Mr. McGwire is determined to return here unless he gets something in Bengal very much to his advantage. If my good word can be of any service to him I shall take the liberty to say I think he deserves anything the Company can do for him. If he does not return hither pray send Mr. Lushington to me."

6. We cannot upon this occasion avoid taking notice of the great industry which has been exerted by all your servants at the subordinates to this Presidency in providing larger investments than have been procured for some years past.

7. We have received a letter from the inhabitants setting forth that the present state of the trade of India will by no means bear the duty of 4 per cent proposed to be levyed. So many matters of consequence have engaged our attention that we have not yet had leisure maturely to consider their address which we shall set about as soon as the ships, now under dispatch, are sailed and transmit you our sentiments therein. But from what has appeared to us we cannot but think they have some foundation for their remonstrances and that the duty of two per cent justly collected will bring in to the Company a very handsome revenue.

8. In order to send away as many of the French prisoners as possible we have shipped some on every ship dispatched from hence this season, as per list enclosed, which you will be pleased to dispose of as you judge proper.

9. On the face of the consultation of the 26 ultimo you will observe a translation of the *sumnud* for the lands as also of the terms made up of in it to which we beg leave to refer you.

10. Mr. John Cooke, in consequence of your directions on that head, begs leave to mention his intention of returning to Europe by the next year's shipping.

11. We have granted the following setts of bills of exchange on Your Honors payable at three hundred and sixty five days after sight at 2s. 3d. per current rupee on the same terms as granted by the former ships:

One sett for pounds sterling 45 payable to Henry Crabb Boulton Esqr. for current rupees 400 received here of Mr. William Bitters.

One sett for pounds sterling 1000- payable to Captain William Jennings or John Baker Esqr. for current rupees 8888-14-3 received here of Messrs William Rider and William Forth account Captain William Jennings.

One sett for pounds sterling 2538-14-4¼ payable to Messieurs Nettleton and Raikes for current rupees 22566-6-3 received here of Richard Becher and Thomas Boddam Esqrs. account Mr. Francis Sykes.

One sett for pounds sterling 500 payable to John Walsh Esqr. for CRs. 4444-7- received here of Messrs Hay and Lushington.

One sett for pounds sterling 1388-12-½ payable to Henry Muilman and Joseph Solomons Esqrs. for current rupees 12343-2-3 received here of John Zephaniah Holwell Esqr.

One sett for pounds sterling 32-11-2¾ payable to John Fullerton Esqr. for current rupees 293-7 received here of Mr. George Gray senior.

One sett for pounds sterling 35-19-2 payable to John Brown Esqr. for current rupees 319-10-6 received here of Mr. George Gray senior, account of him.

One sett for pounds sterling 79-16-2¾ payable to Henry Allen Esqr. for current rupees 709-7 received of Mr. George Gray senior.

One sett for pounds sterling 1012-10- payable to Messrs Alexander Radfor and Thomas Burnett for current rupees 9000 received of Mr. Bartholomew Plaisted.

One sett for pounds sterling one hundred eighty payable to Messrs Thomas Burnett and Jonathan Ranson for current rupees 1600 received here of Mr. Bartholomew Plaisted.

One sett for pounds sterling 100- payable to Mr. Thomas Burnett for current rupees 888-14-3 received here of Mr. Bartholomew Plaisted.

One sett for pounds sterling 40- payable to Mr. Benjamin Sutherland for current rupees 355-9 received of Mr. William Sutherland.

One sett for pounds sterling 100- payable to Robert Drummond Esqr. banker for current rupees 888-14-3 received of Captain David Rannic account Lieutenant Cockran.

One sett for pounds sterling 352-15-4 payable to Adam Dawson Esqr. for current rupees 3136-2-3 received here of Charles Manningham and Willm. Frankland Esqrs. account of him.

One sett for pounds sterling 73-18-7 payable to Captain John Samson for current rupees 657-2-9 received of Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqrs. account of him.

One sett for pounds sterling 58-7-1 payable to Cornelius Goodwin Esqr. for current rupees 518-11-3 received here of Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqrs.

One sett for pounds sterling 2000- payable to Cornelius Goodwin and John Hallet Esqrs. for current rupees 17777-12-6 received here of Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqrs.

One sett for pounds sterling 3419-14-10 payable to Philip Joddrell Esqr. for current rupees 30397-11-6 received of Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqrs.

One sett for pounds sterling 2500- payable to Thomas Manningham and Lawrence Sullivan Esqrs. for current rupees 22222-3-6 received of Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqrs.

One sett for pounds sterling 105-11-5 payable to William Belcher Esqr. for current rupees 938-8-9 received of Charles Manningham Esqr. account Captain Nicholas Weller.

One sett for pounds sterling 2187- payable to Arthur Annesly Esqr. for current rupees 19440- received of Mrs. Elizabeth Beard.

One sett for pounds sterling 313-13- payable to Messrs George and William Cattanaeks for current rupees 2782-12-9 received of Messrs Culling Smith, Ralph Lyeester and Francis Charlton account Captain Alexander Grant.

One sett for pounds sterling 377-4-3 payable to William Bowden Esqr. for current rupees 3353- received here of John Zephaniah Holwell Esqr.

One sett for pounds sterling 225- payable to William Davis Esqr. for current rupees 2000- received of John Zephaniah Holwell Esqr. account the estate of Mr. Thomas Leeche.

One sett for pounds sterling 167-13-2 payable to Philip Joddrell Esqr. for current rupees 1490-4-9 received here of John Zephaniah Holwell Esqr. account the estate of Mr. William Parker.

One sett for pounds sterling 300- payable to William Birch Esqr. for current rupees 2666-10-9 received of John Zephaniah Holwell Esqr. account the estate of Mr. William Parker.

One sett for pounds sterling 403-10 payable to Mrs. Ann McKenzie for current rupees 3586-10-9 received here of Mr. William Alves.

One sett for pounds sterling 600 payable to Mr. William Ferguson for current rupees 5233-5-6 received of Mr. William Macredie.

One sett for pounds sterling 2000- payable to Mr. Quarles Harris for current rupees 17777-2-6 received of Mr. Bartholomew Plaisted.

One sett for pounds sterling 274-15-11¼ payable to Mr. John Savage for current rupees 2443-10-3 received of Mr. John Savage.

One sett for pounds sterling 67-2-1¼ payable to Messrs Hetherstone and Browne for current rupees 596-8-6 received of William Mackett Esqr.

One sett for pounds sterling 149-11-5½ payable to Richard Clive Esqr. for current rupees 1329-8-9 received of Mrs. Margaret Clive account the estate of Mrs. Alice Elles.

One sett for pounds sterling 163-16- payable to Mr. John Stevenson for current rupees 1496- received of Thomas Boddam and Culling Smith Esqrs.

One sett for pounds sterling 2000- payable to Mr. Quarles Harris for current rupees 17777-12-6 received of Mr. Bartholomew Plaisted.

One sett for pounds sterling 2250- payable to Messrs Colley Nixon and John Burton for current rupees [.....] of Messrs Manningham and Fullerton account the estate of Captain George Minchester.

One sett for pounds sterling 5000- payable to Roger Drake, Beston Long and Roger Drake junior, Esqrs. for current rupees 44444-8-6 received of Messrs Culling Smith and Anselm Beaumont account Roger Drake junior, Esqr.

One sett for pounds sterling 200- payable to Grainger Muir and John Thompson for current rupees 1777-12-6 received of Messrs O'Hara, Hay [and] Howitt account Captain Grainger Muir.

One sett for pounds sterling 200- payable to John Creswicke Esqr. for current rupees 1777-12-6 received of John Zephaniah Holwell Esqr. account Mr. Warren Hastings.

One sett for pounds sterling 4000- payable to William Davis Esqr. for current rupees 35555-8-9 received here of John Cooke Esqr.

One sett for pounds sterling 1000- payable to Captain Tom Lewis for current rupees 8888-14-3 received here of Mr. Hugh Baillie.

One sett for pounds sterling 15-15-11¾ payable to Mr. George Leicester for current rupees 140-7-3 received of Mr. Ralph Leicester account the estate of Mr. Edward Page.

One sett for pounds sterling 300- payable to Mr. Thomas Burnett for current rupees 2666-10-9 received of Mr. Bartholomew Plaisted.

One sett for pounds sterling 96-10-6 payable to John Wright Esqr. for current rupees 858- received of Mr. William Fullerton.

One sett for pounds sterling 126-16-8 payable to Mr. James Veitch for current rupees 1127-6-9 received of Mr. William Fullerton account the estate of Captain Veitch.

One sett for pounds sterling 100- payable to Mrs. Elizabeth Titcombe for current rupees 888-14-3 received of Mr. William Fullerton account estate of Mr. William Titcombe.

One sett for pounds sterling 6030-14-4 payable to Alexander and Abraham Hume and Peter Roberts Esqrs. for current rupees 53605-2-3 received here of Thomas Boddam Esqr. account himself and Mr. Thomas Maunsell.

One sett for pounds sterling 904-18-11 payable to John Walsh Esqr. for current rupees 8043-15-9 received of Captain Peter Duncan account estate of Mr. Charles Menzies.

One sett for pounds sterling 1125- payable to Mr. John Smith.

The whole amounting to pounds sterling [.....] or current rupees [.....]

12. We have laden on these ships sundry stores for the use of the island of St. Helena, invoices and bills of lading for which we shall transmit to the Deputy Governor and Council there.

We wish them a safe and speedy passage to Your Honors and are with the greatest respect,

May it please Your Honors,

Your most faithful and obedient humble servants,

C. Manningham / Richd. Becher / W. Frankland / W. Mackett / Thos. Boddam / C. S. Playdell / John Cooke.

Fort William, 5th March 1759.

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LETTER DATED 8 MARCH 1759

Particulars of bills of exchange.

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for the Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honors,

Since closing our dispatches by this ship we have granted one sett of bills of exchange payable to Charles Harris or order for £Str. 1000 in full for current rupees 8888-14-6 received of Captain Lorenzo Collins in part of his adventure.

We are with the greatest respect,

May it please Your Honors,
Your faithful humble servants,

C. Manningham / Richd. Becher / W. Frankland / J. Z. Holwell / Thos. Boddam / John Cooke / C. S. Playdell / W. McGwire.

Fort William, March 8 1759.

LETTER DATED 12 MARCH 1759

Arrival of the Mughal Prince on the borders of Bihar and Oudh—Clive's march with troops towards Bihar—Forwards certain letters addressed to the President—Intelligence regarding the Prince's march towards Patna—The Prince's offer of friendship repeated by his ministers—Nawab intimates despatch of a force to Bihar under Mir Qasim—Raja of Rajahmundry reviews his relations with Forde—Expulsion of the French from the Deccan—News regarding Raja Balwant Singh's and Shitab Roy's monetary help to the Mughal Prince—News of Delhi affairs.

TO the Hon'ble the Secret Committee for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable

1. The Select Committee have already acquainted you that we were threatened with a storm from the north and that the Mogul's son¹ who has been some time in arms against his father or rather the Vizier, his father's minister, had entered the frontiers of these provinces in an hostile manner. As the Prince is daily advancing, though but slowly, it was judged expedient that our forces should march to the northward in order, in conjunction with those of the Nabob, to put a stop to his progress. As I flatter myself my presence will prove of service to the common cause, my former successes having gained me some degree of influence in the country, I have put myself at the head of the forces. They consist of about 450 Europeans and 2500 seapoys; and with these, few as they are, I trust we shall give a good account of the Shahzada though his army is said to be 30000 strong, provided the Nabob's people keep firm to him; and should even the contrary happen and the Subah's troops desert him, we shall still be able to make our party good, and to maintain our own. Indeed the only danger in my opinion to be apprehended is from the disaffection among the Nabob's principal officers occasioned by his treachery towards and ill-usage of them; however, in the several conferences I have had with him since my arrival here, I have so strongly pointed to him the danger of such like behaviour as cannot fail inducing him to a change of conduct for the future; and the confidence which I know the *jematdars* have in the English will, I hope, retain them in their allegiance to their sovereign.

2. We shall leave this tomorrow and I propose marching with the utmost expedition to the relief of Patna, which is in great danger of being lost, as well as the whole province of Bahar, the Shahzadah being actually arrived at the Caramnassa, the river which parts the countries of Oud and Bahar. It is yet uncertain whether Mr. Law with his few fugitives will join him or not. I shall not be able to get the whole of the country correspondence ready to be dispatched by these ships. I therefore send you herewith copies only of the most material letters and such as will give you the clearest insight into the state of affairs at present. The latest advices confidently assert that the great Mogul himself, accompanied by his Vizier, is on his march this w

Prince and they are so particular as to mention the day of his setting out, viz., the 31st ultimo. I am assured there were letters for me from court intercepted on the road by the Prince and torn, from whence I conclude they contained directions to me to give him no protection.

3. I shall esteem myself very fortunate if by my remaining this year in India (which nothing but my zeal for the Company would have induced me to) I prove the happy instrument of saving these provinces and securing to my employers the payment of the remainder of the debt as well as the valuable acquisitions which the late revolution procured to them.

I am with great respect
Honorable,

Your most obedient humble servant
Robert Clive.

Cassembazar, 12th March 1759.

Enclosure 1
(Vide paragraph 2)

From Ram Narran, Nabob of Patna to The President. No date.
Received 11 February 1759.

1. I have from time to time advised you of the Shahzadah's coming this way, but Mr. Amyatt's letters will make you acquainted with every circumstance, for I always acquaint him as soon as I have any fresh intelligence; my dependance is solely on you. Troubles are very near at hand. This is the time for assisting me. I beg you will without delay send me your orders in what manner I am to act. I am very impatient for an answer to this letter.

2. Since writing the above I learn some wicked people have been representing me in a bad light to the Nabob, and that he is very angry with me. God knows, it is on your account that I am the Nabob's servant. If at this time the Chuta Nabob² only should be sent with forces to my assistance, it will raise doubts in many people's minds, and I myself shall be suspicious. I have no dependance on any soul living but yourself. Mr. Amyatt's letters will give you many particulars about this city.

Enclosure 2

From Shah Allum Bahadre, son of Allum Guire, the Great Moghol, and successor of the Empire to Colonel Sabut Jung Bahadre. Received 17th February 1759.

To the high and mighty protector of the great, Colonel Sabut Jung Bahadre.

Know that you are under the shadow of the King's favour. My beloved son Muddar Ad Doula Bahadre and the magnificent Phyz Ally Cawn, worthy of our favour, have fully represented to me your readiness to expose your life for me and many other particulars relating to you. In this happy time with a view of making the tour of Patna and Bengal I have erected my standard of glory at this place. It is my pure intention to bestow favor upon you, the high and mighty, and all faithful servants agreeable to their conduct. This world is like a garden of flowers interspersed with weeds and thorns. I shall

therefore root out the bad that the faithful and good riotts [ryots] (God willing) may rest in peace and quietness. Know you who are great that it is proper you should pay a due obedience to this my *phirmaund* and make it your business to pay your respects to me like a faithful servant which will be great and happy for you. It is proper you should be earnest in doing this when by the blessing of God you shall stand high in my favor. Know this must be done.

This was wrote on the 10th of *Jamadi-aloul* in the 5th year of the present reign and 1172 of the *Hedgira* or the 10th of January 1759.

On the 13th of *Jamadi-aloul* the seal was affixed to this *phirmaund* and on the 14th it was entered into the office of the Presence.

Enclosure 3

From Muddar Ad Doula Bahadre to Colonel Sabut Jung Bahadre. No date. Received 17th February 1759.

By your favor,

In this happy time the prince of this world and its people, Shah Allum Bahadre, the successor, has erected his flaming standard of glory in these eastern parts with a view of making a tour of Patna and Bengal; the magnificent Phyz Ally Cawn has been to pay his respects to him and has fully represented your fame and great actions in the enlightened Presence which has raised his admiration. He has granted you a *phirmaund* which demands the humblest obeysance. Pay you a due regard to his orders whom the world obeys. Your faithful services to him will be a source of happiness and greatness to you. Seek the opportunity of paying your respects to him. Till we have the pleasure of a meeting write me of your proceedings. You will be made acquainted with many particulars by the letters of Phyz Ally Cawn. Know that I am always representing your great worth in the Presence. Be speedy in sending your answers.

Enclosure 4

From Phyz Ally Cawn to Colonel Sabut Jung Bahadre. No date. Received 17th February 1759.

Thanks to God,

Sometime ago it was in your mind to open a correspondence with His Majesty and the Vizier and to shew your readiness to obey them. This I also represented to you as necessary. You also mentioned how desirous you were to procure some means of assisting Mahmud Ally Cawn, Subah of Arcot; Mr. Amyatt also wrote something to you and Mr. Watts. The Shahzadah, Prince of the World and its people, whose empire God prosper, is coming to make a tour this way. I have represented to him your great worth and all particulars relating to you, the same I have done to Muddar Ad Doula Bahadre, called the beloved son of the Shahzadah, *Buxey* of the empire and *Drogah* of the Presence. Muddar Ad Doula, whose services are accepted by the successor of Timour, has through friendship for you represented to the Presence what I have told him concerning you. The *phirmaund* which is granted

demands the utmost respect from you. I procured it and have sent it to you in hopes and expectation of your former favor being continued to me. Esteem his coming as your happiness and speedily send him a most humble address. If it should please God he should move your way be speedy in paying your humble respects to him; he has thought of doing great things by your councils and in conjunction with you.

Enclosure 5

From Phyaz Ally Cawn to the President. No date. Received 17th February 1759.

By the goodness of God I have left Patna and am arrived at the victorious camp of Shah Allum Bahadre, the Prince of the World and its people. If you will make your faithfull servant acquainted with the most secret intentions of your heart he will do his utmost to have them accomplished. I had no other view in coming here than to obey your orders. Whatever is your pleasure your faithful servant will observe and perform it. God grant you long life and prosperity.

Enclosure 6

From the Nabob to the President. Dated 15th. Received 18th February 1759.

I have with great pleasure received your letter of the 10th instant and observe the contents. Your determining to encamp on the 12th convinces me that you have that regard and friendship for me as a son has for his father. God preserve you in health, I have no such dependance on any person living as I have on you. I have recalled Meer Mahomed Cassim Cawn from Rungpore and intend sending immediately, under his command, the intrepid Rahim Cawn and other *jammautdars* with 5000 horse and 5000 *burcondasses*, and half my artillery under the command of the *drogah* with everything necessary for war. If I find it necessary hereafter that either myself or the Chuta Nabob should go I will give you the trouble to come. However it is necessary you should be ready to march but till you receive my letters desiring you to march I would have you remain where you are and not give yourself any trouble. Write me of your health.

Enclosure 7

From Rajah Gudge Puttee Raage Bahadre³ to the President. Dated 3rd January. Received 3rd February 1759.

Sometime ago I did myself the pleasure to acquaint you of Colonel Forde's arrival and of his having been to see me. This letter I hope you have received. It is a long time since I have heard from you which makes me uneasy. I therefore desire you will write me frequently of your welfare. The Colonel and I, having consulted together, began our march towards the French who, on hearing of it, marched out from Rajah Mundrums to Culpoul; we marched on till we came within I *coss* of the French army when we encamped for 6 or 7 days, expecting the French, but as we found they did not come, on

the 5th of *Rabbeah Sannie*, by the favor of God, we decamped and marched to attack the French who then came off their ground and a very sharp action ensued which lasted for 3 hours. The firing of the artillery was so quick that we could not discern anything for smook. The French have had near 600 men killed and wounded; on our part 400 men were killed and wounded, belonging both to the Colonel and me. The French at last fled and abandoned their whole camp to us and retired to Rajah Mundrums where they crossed the river with the utmost expedition and went to Massulipatam. By the goodness of God, who is the giver of victories, the Colonel and I have gained a very great victory. At night we encamped on the ground which the French left and the next day we marched to Rajah Mundrum. I desired the Colonel to cross the river with his troops immediately because the people of Rajahmundrum would be better satisfied and remain with peace in their houses and that I would stay a few days to raise some money for the expences of our armies. The Colonel sent his forces over but remained with a few people intending to go in a few days, during which time I dismissed some Arabs from my service and the Colonel wanted to take them into his pay, but the *Subadar* of Doudi wanted my orders to let them pass; at this the Colonel was much displeased and wrote to me to send the *Subadar* to him. I immediately waited on the Colonel and told him I could by no means do it because he was my servant and a man of consequence and therefore desired he would forgive him. I heard the next day that he would cross the river, therefore sent to know if I should not go and take my leave of him. He answered there was no occasion for my coming and immediately passed the river. He then gathered his forces together and at 12 at night sent his colours over the river with some few people. On hearing this I wrote to him in a friendly manner to know the reason of his crossing the river at night; instead of sending me an answer he confined my *hircaras* and in the morning came over the river himself again. I imagined that if I remained and he came to me that there would be a quarrel, which there was no occasion for; I therefore set out with my people leaving my artillery and went to *Jabootpolly*. On the way I received a letter from the Colonel to send the *Subadar* to him; Mr. Johnstone likewise came for the *Subadar*. I sent him an answer by Mr. Johnstone that if he would permit my people to remain solely in Rajahmundrum and would cross the river again I would go to Rajahmundrum to collect in the revenues and, agreeable to the treaty made between us in the presence of Mr. Andrews, I would pay him 56,000 rupees per month and send him provisions. To this day I have received no answer. I have no desire to quarrel with the Colonel; if he does I must stand up in defence of my honour and cannot help it. The friendship between the English and my family is of a thousand years' standing and I am sorry to observe its decrease. I desire you will write to the Colonel to live in friendship with me. It will be better for us both.

A note enclosed

The Colonel and I entered into a treaty that he should possess Ruch and all the places belonging to the French and English and that I should have the rest but the Colonel is not satisfied and has sent his people to some other places.

Intelligence

Rajah Bulwuntsing⁴ has agreed to pay the Shahzadah 120,000 rupees, and Mahmud Cooly Cawn on the part of the Shahzadah gives encouragement to the Rajah and all persons. The Rajah of Thimnait has agreed to pay 120,000 rupees ready money and 125,000 when he arrives at Kedgouah provided he has a *sunnod* given him. Rajah Bulwuntsing sent his *buxey* Lollcours with Mahmud Cooly Cawn Cawn's [sic] duan to wait on the Shahzadah who sent a *keilaut* [*khilat*] by the *buxey* to his master. *Vacquels* from all the zemindars and rajahs of the Subaship of Bahar are now in the Shahzadah's camp. The Shahzadah has sent *nashans* (letters) to all people to come and pay their respects to him. He takes all who come near him into his service. The *hircara* says that the presents coming from the Vizier to the Nabob are arrived at Aurungabad. Sujait Dowlah has acquainted the Shahzadah of this news.

Enclosure 13

From Shetubroy, King's Duan at Patna to the President. No date.
Received 6th March 1759.

Sometime ago I delivered some papers of news received from Delhi to Mr. Amyatt to forward to you which I hope he has done. By late letters from Delhi I am informed that Jungogee had attacked the city with a very large force and that the Vizier sallied out upon him when a sharp action ensued in which many Morrattoe chiefs and many men on both sides were killed. The Morrattoes at last ran away and were pursued by the Vizier even to their camp. The Morrattoes, finding they could not contend with the Vizier, made peace on conditions of their being paid ten lack of rupees, for which they had a *tumcar* on Rampunand for 3 lack and another on Najib Cawn, the Patan, for 7 lack. The Morrattoes are now on their march for Lahor accompanied by Rajah Dillersing, who will return in four days, when the King and the Vizier will set out in order to put a stop to the Shahzadah's proceedings. This news is certainly true. There are many *cossids* stopt in the Shahzadah's camp and among them are some letters from the Vizier to you. By the blessing of God I hope soon to receive other letters for you. The Shahzadah accompanied by Mahmud Cooly with 7 or 8000 horses are crossed the river above Bonaras. Rajah Ramnaran intends marching out on the 25th with his troops and I shall attend him with my own people. By my letters from Delhi I learn that Nabob Jaffer Ally Cawn has wrote to Rajah Rampursand that you carry on your correspondence at Delhi through the means of Shetubroy, and has ordered him to get me discharged from the duanship and the care of Sum Saum Ad Doula's jaguires. Rampursand represented this in the Presence but I have good interest with the Vizier who will not turn me out for such a person's speaking. The Nabob is much displeased with me but if you favor me all will be well. I hope you are coming up to Muxadavad and will address the Nabob on my affairs. If the Nabob should come this way I shall go and pitch my tents near you for I fear much he will treat me ill. I before wrote you that if it was your pleasure I would remain here, if not I would return to Delhi. You before wrote me that you had wrote the Nabob to send me *perannahs* but to this day I have heard nothing of them.

LETTER DATED 16 MARCH 1759

Clive forwards letters from two chiefs accompanying the Mughal Prince seeking friendship and co-operation—Details of the condition of the Mughal Emperor and his feelings towards the Prince.

TO the Hon'ble the Secret Committee for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honorable,

1. Since my address to you under date the 12 instant I have received a letter from Mahmud Cooly Cawn and one from Phizay Ally Cawn, the principal favorites and chief ministers of the Mogul's son. Copies of the translate whereof I herewith send you.

2. I do not find that the Prince has as yet passed the Caramnassa; and he advances so slowly that I have some hopes I may possibly reach Patna before him and so save that place from falling into his hands.

I am with great respect,
Honorable,

Camp near Rajahmaul,
16 March 1759.

Your most devoted humble servant,
Robert Clive.

Enclosure 1

(Vide paragraph 1)

From Phyaz Ally Cawn to the President. No date. Received 13th March 1759.

This accompanies a letter to you from Nabob Amad ud Dowla Mahmud Cooly Cawn wrote with his own hand. You are an understanding and wise man and well acquainted with the world. The victorious camp is now pitched on the banks of the Caramnassah and to this day you have not even sent him one *arzee*. I hope you will be speedy in sending *arzees* to the Presence and likewise give orders to Mr. Amyatt to set out for the victorious camp immediately.

Health to the protector and favourer of the poor.

I sent my brother to you like a *cossid*. I represented to the Shahzadah the friendship that subsists between Mahmud Ally Cawn and yourself and I likewise made mention of it to the great Vizier Muddar Al Maham Nabob Mahmud Cooly Cawn Yatimaud Ad Doula [Itimad Daula] Bahadre. On my representing this to the Shahzadah he came from the Rohillas country to these eastern parts with a great desire to see you. I am an unfortunate man and it gives me great concern at not having been favored with a line from you. It is now 26 days since my brother set out from Patna to wait you, and I presume you are now consulting about writing an answer. The whole world knows that you are the bahadre of bahadres and it is the custom of

them to say and do. The Shahzadah said to me it is surprising you have not had one letter from Calcutta, I answered you was consulting about it. He said again why does he consult so much, I answered it was your custom, which satisfied him. The victorious army is now encamped on the banks of the Carmanassah where they will halt for two days for the zemindars of Bugga-poor to come and pay their obeisance when the army will march with the utmost expedition for Patna. You had a desire to be in friendship with the Vizier; I thank God I have brought the master of the empire that you may live in the strictest friendship with him. By the blessing of God I hope that all Indostan and Deccan by your counsels shall be settled. I have a thousand times desired Mr. Amyatt to send an *arzee* to the Presence, for the Shahzadah is not come as an invader, for the Emperor has appointed him his successor. The ungrateful Vizier keeps the King in confinement. Letters wrote by the King himself arrive here twice a week by means of the Jauts' *vacqueel* who is now in camp. The letters are sent privately from Delhi to Ferreedabad the capital of the Jauts. All business is at a stand for your advice. The King constantly writes to his son to seat himself on the throne and to coin *siccas*, and that it would be better for him to be under his son's confinement than the ungrateful Vizier's. I swear by God that he defers seating himself on the throne till he receives your advice although he has his father's orders for so doing. Mahmud Cooley Cawn had prepared a throne and canopy at Illialbad and Sujait Dula wrote the Shahzadah that the 15th of *Jamadiastam* was the lucky day for commencing his reign but the Shahzadah answered it is not the seating myself on a throne and striking *siccas* that will make me a king; you are my well-wisher, but although Colonel Sabut Jung has not served me, yet he has showed himself ready to serve our family and is a real friend, it is therefore necessary to consult with him before I commence my reign. The throne and canopy are with him in camp. I alone have made him acquainted with the friendship you entertain for him. You will I hope be pleased with this. I am persuaded that when we arrive at Patna that Ram Narran will settle these matters between the Shahzadah and you to your satisfaction.

Enclosure 2

From Mahmud Cooley Cawn Bahadre to the President. No date.
Received 13th March 1759.

Your great virtues and excellent qualities have been represented to the Shahzadah. I have acquainted you in a former letter, which by this time you must have received, notwithstanding that Mr. Law with a few Europeans has long attended at the stirrup of His Highness in alliance with him and at this time has made earnest supplication to be present near his happy stirrup, for your satisfaction his application has been rejected, his *voukeel* has been dismissed the victorious army without any hope at the encampment of Mirzapoor. Think me your real friend and by the blessing of the just and true God I hope that all Indostan and Deccan by your counsels shall be settled: how easily may the reduction of Assimbah and Bengal prove to you. Many other particulars from the letters of Phyz Ally Cawn, who is your wellwisher, will be represented to you.

LETTER DATED 19 MARCH 1759

The Prince's march towards Patna—Meeting of Clive and Mir Jafar to check his advance—Lally raises siege of Madras.

TO the Hon'ble the Secret Committee for Affairs of the United East India Company.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. Our last address waited on you by the *Worcester* under date the 8th ultimo wherein you were acquainted of the necessity for the President with the forces to take the field and accompany the Nabob to the northward in order to prevent any ill consequences from the arrival of the King's son at Banarras. It was the 1st instant they set out from hence and the 14th they marched from Muxadavad northward. Our last advices from Patna mention the King's son and part of his forces having crossed the Caramnassa (which river is the boundary of our provinces) and that Ramnarrain with his forces were encamped at Fulter Baag where he was throwing up entrenchments and erecting batteries for his better defence against the King's son. Ramnarrain had also summoned the Baudgepore Rajahs and other zemindars to attend him with their troops. We have no certain account of the number of forces with the King's son but believe they are not very considerable. All letters from Delhy have been seized in the King's son's camp and torn but it is confidently asserted the King and Vizier are on their march after the King's son and are so particular as to mention the day of their setting out was the 3rd ultimo. If this prove true it may put an effectual end to the expedition as it is more than probable the King's son will, in that case, be abandoned.

2. The President had a meeting with the Nabob the 9th instant and after laying before him, in the strongest manner, the discontent and disaffection of his *jemantdaars* and representing his treacherous behaviour towards them and non-payment of his people, motives which had encouraged the King's son to this present attempt, the most advisable measures were concerted for the success of the expedition. One of his principal *jemantdaars*, Cossim Ally Cawn,¹ set out for Salabad to take the command of such part of the forces as were arrived there with which he was to proceed directly to Patna. The Chuta Nabob was to set out the same day for Rajahmal and wait either there or at the passe till the President and our forces joined them. These are the particulars of our latest advices and we hope a happy issue to the expedition.

3. Since our last address we have received no intelligence from Colonel Forde in the Deccan, but hourly expect advices as a sloop dispatched from Madrass for this place the 1st instant was ordered to call at Vizagapatam in her way hither.

4. It is with the greatest pleasure we congratulate you on the siege of Madrass being raised the 17th ultimo highly to the honour of the besieged.

We beg leave to refer you for particulars to the enclosed copy of letters from the President and Council of that settlement to the Select Committee here, dated the 1st and 6th instant and to their address to the Hon'ble Court of Directors forwarded by these ships.

5. We are preparing several vessels with grain who shall be dispatched with the utmost expedition and a supply of treasure and stores. We can only add our best endeavours shall be at all times exerted for the good of your service here as elsewhere.

We are with great respect,

Hon'ble Sirs,

Your most faithful and obedient humble servants,
C. Manningham / Richd. Becher / W. Frankland.

Fort William, the 19th March 1759.

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LETTER DATED 21 MARCH 1759

*Adjustment of differences between Raja of Rajahmundry and Col. Forde
—Forde's advance towards Masulipatam against the French.*

TO the Hon'ble the Secret Committee for Affairs of the United East India Company.

Hon'ble Sirs,

1. We addressed you a few lines the 19th instant with our congratulations on the siege of Madrass being raised. By each of these ships you will receive an address from Madrass Presidency on this subject.

2. We have this morning received letters from Colonel Forde, dated Illour the 22nd ultimo, and from Mr. Andrews, dated Vizagapatam the 13th instant, by which we have the pleasure to learn all differences with the Rajah are adjusted, and we hope in our next advices to give you the agreeable news of Massulipatam being in our possession. By accounts of a deserter from Massulipatam who joined Colonel Forde the day before the date of his letter, they were informed the French army consisted of three hundred Europeans and three thousand seapoys encamped within a coss of Massulipatam and that the seapoys were leaving them every day for want of pay, Monsieur Conflans endeavouring to keep up their spirits by telling them he expected a reinforcement from Monsieur Lally very soon when he should wipe of his former disgrace. Mr. Andrews writes that Colonel Forde and the Rajah were before Massulipatam and that the 4th instant our sepoys took a fort within about ten miles of that place in which were ten Europeans, ten *topasses* and one hundred seapoys. The former were taken prisoners, also three *topasses* and eighty seapoys.

3. Since the date of our last address we have received no letters from the President and therefore can add nothing further on the subject of the northern affairs.

We are with great respect,

Hon'ble Sirs,

Your most faithful and obedient humble servants,
C. Manningham / Richd. Becher / W. Frankland.

Fort William, the 21st March 1759.

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LETTER DATED 24 MARCH 1759

The Prince near Patna—Ramnarayan's request for military assistance—Clive's march towards Patna.

TO the Hon'ble the Secret Committee for Affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honourable Sirs,

1. We have already addressed you by these ships under date the 19th and 21st instant. The former congratulated you on Mr. Lally's being obliged to raise the siege of Madrass, the latter conveying purport of letters received from Colonel Forde at Illoor and Mr. Andrews at Vizagapatam. This we dispatch by an express boat (expecting it may reach Kedgerree before the *Prince George* and *Bombay Castle* sail from thence) in order to transmit the particulars of advices received last night from the President whose letter is dated the 18th instant at Futteapore. The following is extract thereof. "This morning a letter from Ramnarain under date the 14th reached me, a copy of the translate whereof I herewith send you, and soon after Mr. Batson joined me having left Mr. Amyatt with the rest of the gentlemen of the factory and the Company's effects at Ruanutta. He brought me a letter from Mr. Amyatt dated the 15th, a copy of which I also send you. By Mr. Batson's account the Shawzadah is at this time very near to if not actually arrived at Patna. I shall pass Rajahmaul tomorrow and shall proceed on with the utmost expedition in order to recover that place and prevent the enemy's advancing further. A few days will discover the motives which have induced Ramnarain to give up so easily the province entrusted to his care and whether this ill-advised step of his has proceeded from cowardice or treachery."

Ramnarain in his letter to the President says, "It is advisable you should march here with the utmost expedition. Agreeable to your repeated directions the *killah* (or fort) is strong but very extensive, my forces are few and no money, I yet continue firm and determined to hazzard my life. On Mr. Amyatt and the gentlemen leaving Patna I think it necessary to advise you I have sent people to take charge of your factory to the west of the *kellah*. *On the 21st* at present stand thus: Morada Doulat, a commander in the *Shah*

the King's son's) army, is arrived at Phulwarree five coss from the city. I have sent Shetabroy to negotiate with him in hopes to gain time."

2. Mr. Amyatt writes that Shetabroy's deputy sent him word Morada Doulat had agreed to Ramnarain's terms and would remain where he was. Shetabroy and Emir Cooley Cawn (a commander of the Shahzadah's) were coming to Ramnarain. Mr. Amyatt believed Ramnarain would assist the cause as much as he could in delaying time and settling the terms, but fight the Shahzadah Ramnarain would not, and if Mr. Amyatt might judge from his actions, he rather imagined he was of the Shahzadah's party. The above is the tenor of advices received last night which we have thought necessary to transmit for your notice and observation, and we doubt not it will appear highly essential to you to support us with a respectable force, or the grants, privileges etc., acquired for the Company in these provinces will be of little or no validity. The report of the Vizier being on his way from Delhi with a force to prevent the Shahzadah's designs still continues.

We have the honour to subscribe ourselves with great respect,

Honorable Sirs,

Your most obedient and faithful humble servants,
C. Manningham / Richd. Becher / W. Frankland.

Fort William, 24th March 1759.

LETTER DATED 22 OCTOBER 1759

The Prince's advance checked at Patna—Defeat of a French squadron at Pondicherry—Presence of Dutch forces in Bengal resented by the Nawab.

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

May it please Your Honors.

1. Since our address by the *Prince George* and *Bombay Castle*, which ships left the river the 23rd March, we have the pleasure to acquaint you of the safe return of the army from the expedition to the northward and that, by their timely arrival at Patna, the progress of the Shawzadah was totally stopped and his designs frustrated, by which means this province is now in perfect tranquility and the Subah more attached to us than ever. The happy change which has happened in the situation of affairs here has greatly reduced the general debt and we flatter ourselves we shall have collected the full amount by the end of the ensuing season. Though the demands for money which have been made upon us by the gentlemen at Madrass etc., have been and will be very large we are fortunate enough to have it in our power to comply with them but we must acquaint Your Honours that though we may be able to answer the great drafts of the Madrass Presidency and to furnish cash for our investment, fortifications and expences, civil and military, this

year, we must totally rely on being largely assisted from home the next, for when the Nabob's debt is discharged our supplies must inevitably cease. By advices from Madrass we learn that Admiral Pocock with the squadron under his command engaged that of the French on the 10th of September and that notwithstanding the enemy had eleven capital ships to nine they were obliged to decline the action and arrived at Pondicherry the 17th in a very shattered condition. We have since heard that Mr. Pocock repaired the rigging of his ships and watered them at Negapatam and that he left that place with the squadron the 26th ultimo in order to lay off Pondicherry and bring the enemy to a second engagement.

2. We think it necessary to inform you the Dutch are attempting to disturb the tranquility of this province by introducing into this country a considerable body of Europeans and Buggesses unknown to the Subah. This ill-judged step has greatly exasperated him against them and we have reason to believe that matters will shortly be accommodated by these forces being obliged to leave the river.

3. We have the pleasure to acquaint you that the *Duke of Dorsett* and *Calcutta* have safely imported here and that the *Royall George* and the *Chinamen* are arrived at Madrass.

[Unsigned]

Fort William, October the 22nd, 1759.

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LETTER DATED 29 DECEMBER 1759

Shipping news—Despatch of ammunition and money to Fort St. George—Wilder improves quality of silk—Reasons for granting saltpetre, contract to Omichand—Destruction of French houses in Chandernagore—Restrictions on the issue of dastaks—Capture of Masulipatam by Forde and grant of the place to the Company by Salabat Jang—Abolition of export duties—Regulation of import duties—Farming at higher rates of newly acquired lands near Calcutta—Progress of fortifications in Calcutta—Explanations for drawing up a larger amount in 1758 by means of bills of exchange on Court—Deputation of two officers to collect dues from Nadia and Burdwan—Payment of further compensation to European sufferers of Calcutta—Particulars of bills of exchange—Invasion of Shahzadah—Rebellion in Purnea—English assistance to the Nawab—News regarding murder of Englishmen at Negrals—Dutch attempt to bring a large force to Bengal—Forde's victory over the Dutch—Grant of mansab and jagir to Clive—Complaint about nomination of Ellis as member of Council—Resentment at Court's remarks on action of the Council.

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for Affairs of
Company of Merchants of England trading to

May it please Your Honors

1. Our last address waited on you by the *Prince George* and *Bombay Castle*; as there was nothing very material in that letter, we omit copy thereof and only enclose an account of the bills of exchange drawn on you by those ships. They were dispatched from Ingellee by Mr. Alexander Scott, our Deputy Master Attendant, on the 23rd March at which time the *Prince George* drew 18½ feet of water and the *Bombay Castle* 18¼ on an [even] keel.

Per *Calcutta* and
Hardwicke original,
and duplicate copy
overland, triplicate per
Royall George.

2. We have now the pleasure to advise you of the safe arrival of the following ships of the season in India—*Duke of Dorsett*, *Royall George* and *Calcutta*, all the Coast and China ships and *Prince Henry* packett, by which several conveyances we have been favored with your commands of the [1st] November 1758 and 3rd January and 23rd March 1759. To those letters we shall reply in the course of our present address and shall now proceed to give you a full detail of our transactions since the dispatch of the last year's ships ranging the same under the usual established heads and

First, of shipping

3. The *Sea Horse* sloop, one of the vessels which transported to Madrass the detachment of King's troops under the command of Captain Drake, on the first notice of that settlement's being invested by the French, returned here the 17th of March with the agreeable news of the seige being raised. These advices were transmitted to the Secret Committee in England by Mr. Alexander Scott from Kedgerce in a packett by the *Prince George* and *Bombay Castle* in consequence of our orders to him to open such dispatches as might arrive before the departure of those two ships in order to forward the intelligence to Your Honors.

4. From the substance of the letter received by the *Sea Horse* sloop from the President and Council of Fort St. George we concluded a large supply of grain would be very acceptable and therefore advertised that we would contract with the owners of any vessels that would carry rice to Madrass at the rate of ninety pagoda per *garee* upon the delivery, which price we were induced to give in order to encourage vessels putting out to sea so late in the season. Pursuant to this publication several owners offered their vessels. The musters of the cargoes were laid before the Board and being approved of were sealed up and forwarded to Madrass by their respective vessels.

5. As we concluded the gentlemen at Madrass would be in great want of military stores after so large a consumption as there must have been during the seige, we purchased the *Leopard* snow and on board of her and the *Fort William* schooner we forwarded 18 pounders and [.....] 24 pounders with a quantity of shot for each, some shells of different sizes and as much rice and other provisions as they could carry. They arrived safe at Fort St. George and we had the satisfaction to find that the supplies sent proved very acceptable.

6. As we wanted to send other articles of provisions to Madrass besides rice, the price of which we could not settle on the delivery at Madrass, we

thought it proper to freight the *Charley* snow and *Lion* sloop for that purpose and agreed to give the owners 40 rupees per ton for what they carried. Those vessels were accordingly loaded by the *Buxey* and dispatched to Fort St. George early in April. Upon them as well as all the other vessels which sailed from this port at that season for the Coast, we sent the President and Council of Fort St. George a consignment of treasure amounting in the whole to CRs. 3,77,400.

7. The Master Attendant having complained to us of the insolent behaviour of Messrs Toole and Cheworth, two of the pilotts, on which account he had suspended them from the service, we agreed to confirm that suspension in order to put a stop to such insolences for the future and preserve the authority of the Master Attendant in his office. Mr. Toole being a troublesome disposition and refractory behaviour we ordered him to prepare to return to Europe by one of the first ships of this season, but Mr. Cheworth having made a proper submission to Captain Barton, at his request we reinstated him in his employ.

8. On the 4th March Captain Barton laid before the Board a letter he had received from James Sparks, chief officer of the *Mermaid* sloop, giving him an account of the unfortunate loss of that vessel off Calingapatam, near Vizagapatam, where she ran ashore in the night, but we had the satisfaction to find that the treasure and most of her stores were saved. As we had not at that time heard from Captain Lewis we postponed our enquiry into the occasion of that loss untill his arrival here when Captains Barton, Samson, Wedderburn, Gould and Holland were directed to enquire into the conduct of the commander and officer and give us their opinion if either of those persons were blameable. Their report you will find entered after our consultation of the 7th May by which we could not judge whether Captain Lewis or Mr. Sparks were most faulty, but in a letter lately received from Captain Lewis, and entered after our consultation of the 5th November, with the opinion enclosed of the surviving members of that enquiry, we observe they exculpate Captain Lewis and throw the blame entirely on the officer James Sparks.

9. We have the pleasure to inform you that after the loss of the *Mermaid* the officer Sparks and the crew seized a French snow which arrived on that coast from Merghie and brought her down to this place. Upon her arrival we sat as a bench of justices to take the depositions of the officers belonging to that snow. Copy of our proceedings therein are transmitted in this packet. It appearing from their evidence that the vessel was a French bottom and the goods on board French property we directed our Master Attendant to take charge of her and dispose of her and her cargoe by public outcry which was accordingly done on Monday the 30th April, as per account sales entered after our consultation of 24th December. The amount we propose to keep deposited in our treasury until your orders thereon arrive.

10. The Master Attendant having reported the *Phoenix* schooner to be in so bad a condition that the repairs she would require would amount to more than she was worth we directed her likewise to be sold at outcry on the same day.

11. The loss of the *Mermaid* sloop and the sale of the *Phoenix* schooner occasioning a want of sloops for the river service we ordered the Master Attendant and the Company's carpenter to survey the *Hertford* sloop, tendered us

for sale, and if they found her fit for the Company's service to set a valuation upon her jointly with Captains Holland and Gould and take charge of her without delay. She was accordingly surveyed and valued, as per report entered after our consultation of the 28th April, and the owners paid out of our cash the sum of Arcot rupees 8,000.

12. On the 26th April we received a letter from Captain Jolin Samson informing us of the arrival of the *Hardwicke* and of the capture of Masulapatam by Colonel Forde, the 7th of that month, and acquainting us that he was obliged to quit his station by two French ships coming into the road of Masulapatam which forced him to cut two cables, whereby having before spared one to Captain Wedderburn of the *Thames* he was reduced to one, that though he endeavoured to work to windward of the French ships the current hoisted him to leeward and being short of water and provisions he was obliged to bear away for this place.

13. As we were ourselves no proper judges whether the reasons Captain Samson had assigned for his leaving his station were sufficient and whether he could not have reached Madrass, by which means he would have had it in his power to have returned to Masulapatam after the departure of the French cruizers, we requested Captains Barton, Wedderburn, Holland, Gould, Tuckey and Mr. Conner to give us their sentiments whether Captain Samson's reasons were sufficient for his quitting his station and whether they esteemed it practicable to return the *Hardwick* to Masulapatam at that season of the year. Those gentlemen, having retired, sent in their opinion in writing that Captain Samson acted prudently in leaving his station but that he might have attempted getting to Madrass or to windward of the port he left which they think would have been attended with less risque than bearing away for Ballasore Road with only one anchor on board. They were likewise unanimously agreed that if the *Hardwick* could be got out of pilot's water she might proceed to Masulapatam, but it being judged impossible by the Master Attendant to return the *Hardwick* to Masulapatam soon enough to be of any service to Colonel Forde we laid aside our intentions of sending her back. But Captain Samson having in our opinion distressed the service he was employed on by quitting his station and coming down to Bengal without orders, by which means the ship *Hardwick* was rendered useless to the Company, we thought proper to dismiss her from the service (untill we had further use for her) and protested against Captain Samson for all ill consequences and losses that might accrue to our employers from his proceeding in this manner, but finding shortly after that she would be wanted for a September ship, and that the charge of unloading her saltpetre would be very considerable, we thought proper to alter our resolution on this occasion.

14. Sometime in February we sent the *Fanny* snow to the Negraise and directed Mr. Newton to embark on her and repair here with his garrison and military stores leaving only a sarjeant and three or four men to take care of the Company's timbers. In consequence of those orders Mr. Newton arrived here the beginning of May and landed thirty six European soldiers and some military stores which were given in charge to the Storckeeper.

15. Mr. Alexander Scott having, in a letter of the 2nd April, represented to us that as his salary as Deputy Master Attendant by the late regulation from home was less than what he received when head pilot, though his duty

was much greater, we came to a resolution of increasing his allowances to one hundred and twenty rupees per month in consideration of his particular merit and services but reserved to ourselves the liberty of continuing it to his successor or not as we might think proper.

16. By our consultations of last season you will observe that the owners of a large ship called the *Thames* tendered her to the Company to carry a part of the detachment and stores on the expedition under Colonel Forde without any other consideration than that of the Company paying the charges of her outsets, which proposal being accepted of and Captain Wedderburn's bill of rupees 10,169-13-3 being paid on that account, she was dispatched in company with the *Hardwicke*, *Hechester* and *Worcester*; and after landing the troops and stores she carried, Colonel Forde put on board a quantity of rice for the Presidency of Madrass and dispatched her for that place where she arrived some days after the French had invested the town and the captain finding it impossible to land her cargoe at that juncture stood out to sea again and put into Pullicatt. Mr. Brooks, the Company's Resident there, advised Captain Wedderburn to return with the *Thames* to Masulapatam and assist Colonel Forde in bringing his detachment to the relief of Madrass. Captain Wedderburn thereupon went back to Masulapatam where he was detained by Colonel Forde untill after the raising of the seige of Madrass when he returned to that place and delivered his consignments. The President and Council of Fort St. George dispatched her to this place with about three hundred bales of broad cloth. Sometime after her arrival the owners applied to us to be reimbursed the expences they had been at during her detention in the Company's employ and the loss they had suffered in the value of her block, a statement whereof they laid before the Board.

17. Their application laid for consideration untill the 4th June when it appeared to us that the detention of that ship by Colonel Forde had prevented her returning to Bengal in time to be employed on any other voyage from this place, by which means the value of the block was reduced from fifty thousand rupees, the price the owners paid for her, to thirty two thousand rupees, the price she sold for at outcry. We were therefore of opinion that the owners should be reimbursed the charges of the ship since her leaving the river untill her return and likewise the loss of the block, after making an equitable valuation of the ship which we estimated at forty thousand rupees. Pursuant to this resolution a statement of the account was laid before us and the balance, current rupees 17,211-8-3, paid out of the treasury and carried to the debit of the expedition to the southward. We flatter ourselves Your Honors will think this an equitable adjustment as the owners of that ship have thereby reaped no advantage but have rather been losers besides running the risque of the vessell the whole time she had been employed.

18. The gentlemen at Madrass having purchased the *Victoria* snow during the seige of that place they sent her down to this place in the month of June. Upon her arrival we directed the Master Attendant to take charge of her and have since employed her in carrying Mr. Southby, in quality of Resident, to the Nagrais to take care of the Company's timbers etc.

19. The attornies for the owners of the ship *Fort William* having several times applied to us for the freight due from the Company for the detention of that vessel by Mr. Newton at the Nagraise we took their demand into

consideration, the 2nd July, and agreed to allow them the sum of current rupees 2,500 per month as an equivalent for her detention which being accepted of by those gentlemen the account was accordingly made up and the ballance, current rupees 27,750, paid out of the cash.

20. Captain James Barton having departed this life of a fever on the 6th July we appointed Mr. Alexander Scott Master Attendant in his room and Mr. Peter Connor Deputy.

21. Captain John Samson requested fifty tons of saltpetre might be laden on the *Hardwick* on half freight. We have put on board that quantity on those terms as per separate bill of lading enclosed in this packet.

22. The President and Council of Fort St. George having acquainted us in their letter, under date the 28th June, that they should have occasion for twenty laaks of rupees before they could expect to be supplied with bullion from home and Your Honors having recommended it to us to assist them with whatever money they may require, we consigned them on the ships *Patty* and *Thames* 18 chests of *sunaut* rupees and 3 chests of gold, amounting in the whole to current rupees 4,13,489-14-9, but the *Thames* having met with an accident and put back we shipped the treasure laden on her on the *Grampus*, one of the Company's sloops, with a further supply of gold amounting in all to current rupees 4,94,239-14-3.

23. The *Fanny* snow having been reported by the Master Attendant as unfit for the Company's service we ordered her to be sold at public outcry as you will observe by the account sale entered after our consultation of the 20th September.

24. The *Duke of Dorsett* and *Calcutta* from Europe and the *Stretham* from Bombay are safely arrived in the river. They all met with a severe gale of wind in the Bay in which the *Duke of Dorsett* was obliged to cut away her main mast and narrowly escaped being lost.

25. Captain Mason having requested permission to bring the *Stretham* up to Calcoola we acquiesced with his request but we are sorry to inform you that in her passage up the river she run ashore and overset.

26. On the first notice of this accident we sent down Mr. Peter Connor, the Deputy Master Attendant, with all the sloops and boats we could procure to save the Company's effects and flatter ourselves that the greatest part will be recovered but the broad cloth, we apprehend, will be entirely damaged. For a particular account of what is saved we must refer Your Honors to the report which the Import Warehouse Keeper is to deliver to us when the whole is got out which can be saved.

27. When Captain Mason's officers can leave the wreck and come up to town we shall order an enquiry to be made into the conduct of the pilot and if we find him culpable we shall dismiss him the service and send him to Europe.

28. The *Hardwick* and *Calcutta* we have stationed directly with compleat loadings from hence and propose dispatching them together early in December.

29. The *Duke of Dorsett* we have appointed to go to Bombay instead of

the *Streitham*, and shall consign the President and Council of that place 4,000 baggs of saltpetre by her.

30. We have likewise freighted two thousand six hundred baggs of petre on two country vessells bound to Bombay in order that the gentlemen there may have an early supply of that article.

31. Since writing thus far have arrived the *Oxford* and *Denham* each with a detachment of military under the command of Major Caillaud. The *Royall George* has likewise imported and we have the pleasure to hear that the *Ajax*, *Stormont* and *Houghton* with the remainder of Colonel Coote's battalion have put in at Madrass and disembarked the troops. Those ships are daily expected here, and we have made the following appointments of the ships of this season: the *Royal George* to proceed to Europe directly in January and the *Stormont* with the remainder of our investments, the *Oxford* with two hundred tons of petre and five or six hundred bales for Fort St. George to be filled up and finally dispatched from thence to Europe. The *Houghton* with saltpetre to Bombay and the *Denham*, and *Ajax* with redwood and saltpetre to Bencoolen to be filled up with pepper at that settlement.

Secondly, of goods from Europe and from one part of India to another

32. Before we had the agreeable news of Mr. Lally's having raised the seige of Madrass we had taken the precaution to agree with the owners of a Dutch vessell, called the *Elizabeth*, to carry about four thousand bags of rice to be landed at Fort St. George, in case the French had retired from before that place, as we imagined the gentlemen there would be on great want of provisions after sustaining so long a seige, especially when the black inhabitants of the town began to return; and if the place had unfortunately fallen into the hands of the enemy the rice above mentioned was to have been landed at Pullicat. Great part of the four thousand bags was laden on her when she unhappily sprung a leak and was obliged to return, by which means we were deprived of that opportunity of sending them a supply and have been obliged to land the rice and have ordered the *Buxey* to dispose of it at outcry.

33. You will observe in the course of our consultations we have at different times purchased such bullion as has been offered us in order to coin into rupees.

34. The account sales of woollen goods, copper and lead and iron made this season appear on the face of our consultations and are entered at large. Copys of them are likewise transmitted in this packett which we hope will prove very satisfactory and you may rest assured of our constant endeavours and best attention to promote this branch of the Company's affairs and are therefore to request you will comply, as fully as possible, with the indents for goods and stores now forwarded.

35. The late troubles up the country and the unsettled state of the province of Behar has hitherto prevented our sending any broad cloth or copper to the factory at Patna. As soon as the situation of affairs there will permit it we shall not fail to comply with your orders on that head.

36. We shall always take care to supply the gentlemen at Bencoolen with opium and whatever stores they may indent for.

Thirdly, of investments

37. We have the pleasure to acquaint you that our investments this season have been carried on under our *gomastahs* at the several *aurungs* greatly to our satisfaction. The cloth they have sent us down proves in general very good, and we believe the whole of our orders will be fully complied with.

38. Enclosed in this packet we transmit you an abstract of the *aurung* accounts by which you will observe the moneys advanced them from time to time and the goods we have received from them.

39. Previous to the receipt of this year's list of investment we had given orders to the *gomastahs* to increase their purchases of cloth foreseeing that a large return of goods from Bengall would, as things are circumstanced, turn out greatly to the Company's advantage which measures, we are pleased to find, will prove agreeable to you from the increase of your orders of this season.

40. It will be needless to extract our correspondence with the subordinates as it would only take up your time without being of any service. In general we must beg leave to remark that the servants of each factory have exerted themselves in the Company's affairs under their management and we have reason to expect very large and satisfactory investments from every subordinate.

41. The gentlemen at Cossimbazar have done their utmost to remedy the defects you have so frequently complained of in the winding of their silk in which they have been greatly assisted by Mr. Richard Wilder¹ whose machine has been found very servicable. The gentleman has likewise resided some time at Puddapar in order to instruct the winders of that place. By this means we hope the silk we may in future send home will be free from the faults usually complained of and meet with better sales.

42. The piece goods received last season from Patna arriving too late even for our latter shipping and proving of a very inferior quality, we directed the gentlemen there not to purchase any unless they could mend the fabrick and directed them to dispatch whatever goods they sent in future so as they might arrive in time for our early ships.

43. We continue to purchase our saltpetre at Patna by virtue of the *purwannah* obtained from the Nabob and expect about eighty thousand maunds of that article will be provided this season.

44. Your orders relating to the quantity of saltpetre to be laden on each ship and for sending a large supply of that article to each of the other Presidencies shall be punctually complied with.

45. The investments received from Dacca and Luckipore this season have proved extremely good and the gentlemen of those factories acquaint us they shall be able to invest the whole of the monies they have been supplied with.

46. You were informed last season of our having sent Mr. Hugh Watts

to make a provision of Radnagore silk at the *aurung* it is produced. At some time after his arrival there he sent us musters wound off from the *romally* and *jilmilly surpur* with an estimate of the price those sortments would turn out at. These musters appearing very good and superior to what our *gomastahs* had provided we directed Mr. Watts to go on with his purchases and recalled our *gomastahs* from that *aurung* that Mr. Watts might have no impediment in the provision of his silk. Some bales are now on their way from that *aurung*—when they arrive we shall inspect the quality of the silks and if it is found equal to muster and turns out pretty reasonable we shall continue to provide a small quantity untill we have your further orders.

47. We have this year supplied the subordinates with the following sums of money viz.,

Cossimbuzar	...	...	...	CRs. 8,59,674-10-9
Patna	...	...	...	" 2,07,307- 7-3
Dacca	...	...	...	" 1,59,603-14-3
Luckipore	...	...	...	" 1,66,185- " "
Ballasore	...	...	...	" 10,942- 7-6

48. We shall here reply to the 35th paragraph of your letter per *Prince Henry* concerning our contract for saltpetre with Omichund. Had our consultations and the general situation of our affairs in Bengall been strictly attended to we think the paragraph before mentioned would never have had a place in your letter, for by our consultations it will appear that the offer of 58,000 maunds of petre from Omichund was prior to the revolutions and at a time when we were under the greatest uncertainty in respect to the friendship of the then Subah who we found to be very insincere in his professions and were morally sure that he would break the peace he had lately made with the English, the moment he found himself in a capacity to do it. Our Select Committee must have informed you of the disposition in Suraj ud Dowla; it would therefore have been an act of the highest imprudence to have risked the Company's money so much out of the way as Patna for the prospect of a small gain in the price of petre, the getting of which article safe to Calcutta would after all have been very precarious as things then stood. The contract, it is true, was not absolutely made and closed untill the beginning of July after the death of Suraj ud Dowla and settling of Jaffier Ally Khan in the government but we beg leave to observe that it was so soon after that transaction that the country was in no settled state or the government so secured to the new Subah as to be free from further apprehensions. There was great reason to believe some of the ministers and officers in the distant provinces would be dissatisfied with the change and refuse to submit to the new Subah untill his authority was better established. The Nabob of Patna, in particular, was supposed would prove backward in his obedience; consequently it would have been a very improper time to have sent up so large a sum of money to Bahar as the quantity of petre we should want would amount to. Besides which the season was too far advanced, Mr. Pearkes not arrived at Patna and the true state of that province quite unknown. The time for buying up *cutch* petre was over and we made no doubt the whole was collected by Coja Wazeed in virtue of his exclusive *purwannah*. Under these circumstances we think we should have deserved with *the* your *had we declined the offer made us by Omichund for*

in time for our ships on cheaper terms than we formerly paid him for that commodity. This contract we could depend on and Omichand's substance secured us the penalty of the contract in case he failed. But notwithstanding our agreement with him you will observe we permitted Mr. Pearkes to contract for a further quantity when he advised us that he could procure it at 5s. 2d. per maund, nor did we ever cheque Mr. Pearkes on any occasion (as you have been misinformed), but when he attempted to force the petre from Omichand's people which they were sending to Calcutta in consequence of his contract with the Board, this we thought ourselves obliged to interfere in as we could not but abide by a contract we had once made. The whole affair of Mr. Pearkes' contracts for saltpetre, and the merchants who were to deliver the same, with some other parts of his conduct at Patna, is fully explained in our letter per *Ilehester* and *Worcester* last year to which we beg leave to be referred.

Fourthly, of the trade of India and transactions with the country Government, the Dutch or French

49. In consequence of private advices that Mr. Lally had destroyed the houses at Fort St. David and sold the materials at outcry and that he had set fire and done all the damages he could to the houses at the Mount we wrote to the President and Council of Fort St. George to learn from their authority the truth of these reports, which being confirmed by them, with this additional circumstance that Mr. Lally intended destroying the black town of Madrass had he not been prevented by the timely arrival of our succours, we directed our Engineer Captain Brohier immediately to set about the demolition of the wharfs, magazines and houses, both public and private, at Chandernagore which is now entirely compleated except the houses of a few indigent widows which we have permitted to remain untouched.

50. Having been at a large expence in maintaining the French prisoners in this place we enclose in this packett an account thereof.

51. The regulation concerning *dustuck*, pointed out by you in your commands of 3rd March 1758, coming under our consideration the 26th July we give the subject its proper attention, and having maturely weighed the evil tendency of the former indiscriminate manner of granting this indulgence we came to a resolution of laying such restriction on that privilege as we thought capable of preventing any illicit use being made of them in future. Our proceedings in the affair you will find entered at large on the face of that day's consultation which we doubt not you will approve of and we hope it will have the desired effects in preventing your covenanted servants covering the property of others and thereby defrauding the Government of its just duties.

52. The Nabob, his son and Juggut Seat have at different times paid the President a visit this season. The expence attending these visits has in part been defrayed with the overplus of the money advanced by the Nabob for the military expences during the expedition to the northward, the rest has been discharged out of your cash and, as we hope, the incurring this expence will not be disapproved of as the utility of these visits will more than be an equivalent for the charge.

53. In our address by the *Ilchester* you were informed of an expedition having been set on foot under Lieutenant Colonel Forde into the Deccan country, and in a subsequent letter per the *Worcester* we transmitted you the agreeable intelligence of a complete victory gained by our troops over the army commanded by the Marquis de Conflans. When the *Hardwicke* returned from the southward we had the further satisfaction to hear that Colonel Forde had carried Massulapatam by storm. The garrison consisted of upwards of 500 Europeans, and the force which attacked it did not exceed 300—an enterprize so glorious must for ever reflect lustre on the British arms. The consequences of this success have been very great to our employers for by a treaty concluded between Sullabaut Jung and Colonel Forde the Company are invested with a grant of Mussulapatam and all its districts, by which acquisition they will reap the benefit of a revenue of at least four lack of rupees per annum besides the advantage of the exclusive trade of that place and the country round about. By the same treaty the French are declared enemies to Sullabut Jung and are never to be permitted to set foot in Deccan.

54. As Masulipatam was taken by storm no part of the plunder could be claimed for the Company except the artillery and military stores, which were very considerable and have been forwarded part to Madrass and part to this place.

55. There being a quantity of grain taken in the place which Colonel Forde thought proper to reserve for the Company untill he received our orders on the subject but at the same time having represented to the Select Committee how great the encouragement would be esteemed if we thought proper to give it up to the captors, as a further reward for their late gallant behaviour, we have acquiesced with the proposal and relinquished our claim on behalf of the Company.

56. Before the news of this capture reached Pondicherry Lieutenant General Lally had sent a reinforcement of above 500 Europeans for the security of that important territory but, very fortunately for us, Colonel Forde was in possession of the place before their arrival, upon which they were obliged to make the best of their way to Gangam where they disembarked and still continue intrenched but in so distressed a condition, for want of money and provisions, that their numbers are greatly diminished by desertion and death. To add to their misfortunes they have given some occasional disgust to the Rajah in whose country they reside and are surrounded by his forces in such a manner that we judge they will attempt, if possible, to return to Pondicherry by some sea conveyance. One of the ships which transported them being stranded and the other dispatched to Merghie to refit and carry them provisions, there is therefore great reason to imagine that upon the first approach of our army from Massulipatam (who were to march to the northward the begining of November) they will surrender themselves prisoners of war, to avoid falling into the hands of the offended Rajah if before that period of time they have not left the Coast.

57. Upon the first intelligence we received of the ship above mentioned being sent to Merghie the Select Committee thought it advisable to order the *Hardwicke* out on a cruize off Gangam to intercept, if possible, the French ship on her return from Merghie and cut off the supply of provisions designed

for the detachment before spoken of, and having applied to us to put the *Hardwicke* under their directions we gave the commander instructions accordingly. In consequence of those orders she proceeded to Gangam but finding that the French ship was not expected back before January Mr. Brooke Samson, the chief officer, who had the command of the ship (Captain Samson being indisposed), pursuant to his instructions from the Select Committee returned into the river and is now under dispatch for Europe.

58. As the Company's settlements on that coast have always been under the direction and management of the President and Council of Fort St. George we gave Colonel Forde directions to deliver up Massulapatam and the charge of all the Company's civil affairs to Mr. John Andrews who has been appointed by the gentlemen of Madrass to remove from Vizagapatam to that place and there transact the Company's business.

59. Mr. John Andrews, the Chief of Vizagapatam, on removing from that place to Massulapatam forwarded to us by the *Ann* snow 245 bales of goods provided at that factory, being apprehensive that the French, landed at Gangam, might march to the southward and make themselves masters of Vizagapatam. We propose sending the said bales up to Madrass by the first proper conveyance.

60. Our mint is at present of very little use to us as there has been no bullion sent out of Europe this season or two past, and we are apprehensive that it will never be attended with all the advantages we might have expected from it, as the coining of *siccas* in Calcutta interfere so much with the interest of the Scats that they will not fail of throwing every obstacle in our way to depreciate the value of our money in the country, notwithstanding its weight and standard is in every respect as good as the *siccas* of Muxadavad, so that a loss of *batta* will always arise on our money, let our influence at the Durbar be ever so great.

61. As the lands are now farmed out for the space of three years the gentleman under whose management they will at any time fall will have little more to do than make the monthly collections of the revenues on which account we are of opinion there is no absolute necessity of joining any other servants in that duty.

62. Had we received your orders before the sale of the lands we should have put in execution your commands in the 50th paragraph of your letter of this season forbidding any of your servants to hold any lands, towns or villages, and in future sales these commands shall be obeyed.

63. Conformable to the agreement made between Admiral Watson and the President and Council of Fort St. George the agents for the plunder taken from the Moores deposited in our treasury one moiety of all the captures made before the peace with Suraj ud Dowlah. In respect to the moiety of what was taken at Chandernagore it was not in our power to insist on it as His Majesty's squadron were concerned in that capture, and to have taken the moiety of what was due to your own troops would have been but a trifle and have occasioned a general discontent. In future, if you expect the Company should partake of any plunder or captures where His Majesty's ships or land forces are concerned, we beg leave to recommend your procuring proper authority from the King for demanding the same, as we cannot without such

authority claim or oblige the captors to give up any part, and we do not conceive the patents hitherto obtained from His Majesty sufficient for that purpose.

Fifthly, of buildings, revenue and fortifications

64. Your orders relating to the customs to be levied in the settlement coming under our consideration the 26th April, the Board was unanimously of opinion that the trade of the place would not bear a duty of four per cent on imports and exports. Our reasons for this opinion were grounded on an estimate of the voyages lately set on foot from Calcutta under the easy duty of two per cent on exports and one per cent on imports, few of which have turned out beneficial to the owners. The decay of trade and badness of markets all over India you have frequently been made acquainted with and we are sorry to observe that the same complaints exist at present. The premiums for respondentia and insurance are vastly enhanced and the late troubles in the country have made all sorts of goods both scarce and dear. Under such circumstances therefore to have burthened the trade with so heavy a duty as four per cent on imports and four per cent on exports would have effectually ruined the little commerce which is left in the settlement, but as we were sensible it was neither for the interest nor the intention of our employers to discourage the merchants and inhabitants from attempting to keep up the navigation of the English in these parts and by that means giving up to foreigners settled here all the advantages of the commerce of Bengall, we have for these reasons determined to deviate a little from your orders on that head and have established the following dutys to be collected by the Sea and Land Custom Master.

4 per cent to be paid on all goods imported into the place by shipping which have not already paid the Company a duty at any of their other settlements, and 2 per cent on all such as have before paid the Company a duty at any of their other settlements. 2 per cent to be collected on the importation of all piece goods, raw silk and cotton yarn brought into the place from the *aurungs* and subordinates whether by water or land carriage. 4 per cent on all other articles from the *aurungs* and subordinates, the goods to be valued at the *aurung* prices.

65. By the foregoing regulations you will observe we have abolished the duty on exportation esteeming it unreasonable that the same goods should pay a double duty and imagining it easier to collect the customs on the importation of goods into the settlement than on their being exported again, by which means likewise the Company will reap the benefit of the duty on all goods consumed in the settlement.

66. Grain being an article the importation whereof we judged ought to be encouraged we have reduced the import duty to four per cent and have increased the duty on its exportation to six per cent.

67. Upon abolishing the farms of the buzars the Land Custom Master was directed to collect a duty of four per cent indiscriminately on all necessaries imported for the consumption of the settlement, which we imagined would have been pretty near the former duties collected on those articles, but many complaints having been made us by the poorer inhabitants that this

regulation fell very heavy on the necessities of life and laid them under great distresses we desired Messrs Frankland, Holwell and Playdell to examine the state of the duties formerly collected in the buzars and lay before the Board such alterations as they judged might be for the relief of the poor, and those gentlemen accordingly laid before us a statement of duties to be collected on necessities of life and the articles of luxury which being approved of by the Board was ordered to be carried into execution, the particulars whereof you will see entered at large in our consultation of the 26th July.

68. We flatter ourselves that the regulations we have made in this branch of the Company's revenues and the customs we have established will meet with your approbation as we have had no view herein but the good of the settlement in general and therein that of the Company. We make no doubt you will be convinced of the solidity of our reasons for deviating from your orders of collecting four per cent on exports and imports when you have seen a statement, transmitted last year, of a voyage from hence to the Coromandel coast, the Gulph of Persia, Bombay, Surat and back wherein it appears what the owners paid at the different ports in duties to the Company and scarce divided respoendentia on her return to this port.

69. Your orders respecting the method of collecting the customs have been duly complied with and a Sea and Land Custom Master appointed with proper directions for carrying on the business of their different departments. Mr. Richard Becher had the charge of the sea customs conformable to your commands of 3rd March 1758. It being necessary for him to have a house and offices in some convenient place where goods might be landed without risque we purchased for that purpose Mr. Holwell's house contiguous to the old ditch which we ordered to be cleared out for the reception of boats; and came to a resolution that all goods brought by water carriage should first be entered at that Custom House and after the boats were properly examined the Custom Master might permit the goods to be landed at either of the three following *gauts* as might be most convenient for the proprietor namely:

The *gaut* commonly called Jackson's to the north.

The *gaut* near the old fort in the centre.

The *gaut* called Mingha Bibby's to the southward.

Any goods that were landed or attempted to be landed without first being entered at the Custom House were to be seized and confiscated for the Company's use. The *gunge* was likewise put under the management of the Sea Custom Master whose officers were to examine and estimate the quantity of grain brought on any boats, upon which estimation the duty is to be collected and then the grain permitted to be landed either at the *gunge* or any other place.

70. Mr. Charles Stafford Playdell was appointed Land Custom Master and a convenient house rented for his residence and the necessary offices of that post.

71. The new establishment of duties on goods imported by shipping were ordered to take place immediately after our fixing the same except upon such voyage as had been set on foot prior to this regulation whose cargoes were to be subject to the former duties. Only the customs on goods imported from

the *aurungs* and subordinates were ordered to be collected from the first day of July.

72. Upon the expiration of the Bengall year for which term the farm of our new acquired lands had been renewed with the former *czadars* we took into consideration whether it would be more for the Company's advantage to keep those lands in our own hands or farm them out to the best bidder. We were unanimous in opinion that the keeping the lands in our own hands would not be so advantageous for our employers as farming them out; accordingly public notice was given that we would receive proposals for farming any of the *purgunnahs* or villages held by the Company, the said proposals to be given in within twenty days from the date of the notice.

73. You will observe in the course of our consultations the several offers which were made us for farming the said lands in parts and one proposal for the whole, signed by a considerable number of black inhabitants, with offers of good security for payment of the money. Mr. Holwell, in like manner, offered to make an advance of ten thousand rupees on the proposal of the abovementioned inhabitants for the farm of the whole territory in case we chose to let them out in that manner, but at the same time he strongly objected to that method of farming them out and recommended the putting them up at outcry, his reasons for which are delivered at large in his letter to the Board under date the 11th June and entered after that day's proceeding.

74. As the President was at that time on his return from the expedition to the northward and might soon be expected in Calcutta we deferred coming to any resolution on this important affair untill his arrival, after which the Board resumed the consideration of this subject when it was agreed to sell the farm of the lands at outcry on the 31st day of July in single *purgunnahs* for the term of three years, commencing from the beginning of the present Bengall year, and subject to the restrictions before advertised and entered at length after our consultation of the 21st May.

75. In consequence of this resolution, the lands were put up at outcry on the 31st July at the Mayor's Court house in presence of the Board, and we have the satisfaction to inform you they sold for a very large advance on the last year's produce, as will appear by the account sales transmitted in this packet, amounting to *sicca* rupees 7,65,700 per annum exclusive of the *gauts'* royalties etc., *badfejumar* and of the town of Calcutta and villages situated within the six hundred yards beyond the Morattoe Ditch (given the Company in full sovereignty by the treaty of Jassier Ally Cawn) the produce whereof you will have credit for in the Collector's books.

76. We have begun to make a new measurement of the Company's lands and have completed six *purgunnahs* wherein we find an encrease of 72,240 *begars* [*bighas*]. We have reason to think the rest of the *purgunnah* will turn out in proportion which the present farmers are to pay for when the measurement is finished conformable to the advertisement we made. This added to the improvements of the grounds which at present lay uncultivated will, we flatter ourselves, raise the value of the lands very considerably when they come to be sold again at the expiration of the three years they are farmed for.

77. We are sorry to inform Your Honors that the expence of the new citadel is likely to prove much heavier than was at first expected notwithstanding

standing our utmost endeavours to carry it on in the most frugal manner and taking every caution in our power to prevent the Company being imposed on either in the prices or expences of material. The reasons for this unexpected encrease will be accounted for by Capt. Brohier to whose letter we beg leave to refer.

78. As we found it would take up a great deal of time to compleat the citadel upon Mr. Brohier's plan, and as we were of opinion it would be more eligible to close the works and erect some of the most material interior buildings before he set about any of the out-works (the glacis excepted), we sent for that gentleman to Council and desired him to desist from the out works for the present (the glacis and ravelins excepted) and employ the workmen in enclosing the citadel and erecting barracks, magazines and other material buildings which he is accordingly to perform.

79. In reply to your 56th paragraph we must remark that the additional duty this year laid on the trade of the settlement is in reality a contribution of the inhabitants towards that expence and we imagine was imposed by Your Honors for that purpose.

80. We do not know what other method can be taken to make the inhabitants bear a proportionable part of this heavy expence and we are of opinion that a larger duty the trade of this place will not admit of.

81. In the month of June the powder works at Perrin's Garden by an accident were blown up and entirely destroyed. As we were too much confined at that place for want of ground and laying under many inconveniences on account of a number of straw houses being very near those works we have now determined to erect what new works we propose having for making powder on the other side of the Ditch near Perrin's, and for that purpose have rented a convenient spot of ground enclosed by a brick wall belonging to Petumberseat at the rate of two hundred and fifty rupees per annum.

82. The powder now made under the inspection of Martin Costeley proving extremely good we take the liberty to forward in this packet an indent from him for sundry materials to be used in the composition in order to give the powder more strength and to make it capable of bearing the damp air of this climate. These materials are indented for from Europe as we have hitherto been obliged to buy them here at very high price.

83. You were last year advised of our having purchased the dwelling houses of Messrs Court, Drake and Boddam, the former for holding consultations in and for offices, the second for an import warehouse and the last for a marine house. We must acquaint you of our having made a further purchase of Dr. Gray's house for an hospital at current rupees 14,000 and that we are about buying the dwelling house of Mr. Carvalho for the residence of Lieutenant Colonel Eyre Coote,² conformable to your commands of 23rd March last. We hope you will not disapprove of our making these purchases as we judge it much more for the Company's interest than paying house rent as they will always fetch nearly the sums paid for them.

84. There being a very great scarcity of houses in the settlement, insufficient even for the present inhabitants, we have directed Mr. Bartholemew Plaisted, our Surveyor, to build slight appartments on the *cottah* godowns and

on the long row in the old factory for the reception of the officers of Colonel Coote's battalion and for the residence of as many writers as can conveniently be accommodated there. The expence of this work will be but trifling as the appartments are to be covered with thatch and there will be but very little brick work.

Sixthly, of covenanted and military servants and their accounts

85. In consequence of your recommendation to us in your letter of 23rd March 1758 to assist the widow and family of the late Reverend Mr. Robert Mapletoft we took her situation into consideration the 2nd August last and came to a resolution to allow her one hundred Arcot rupees per month to commence from the arrival of the above mentioned orders which will be but a bare maintenance for her and her numerous family. She has been paid accordingly by the *Buxey* and begs leave to return Your Honors her most grateful thanks for your tender remembrance of her.

86. As some of the gentlemen of the Board who are leaving the place had taken their passage on board the *Hardwicke* which ship at that time was intended to be dispatched to Europe in September, we early in the season directed Messrs Batson, Billers and Smyth to hold themselves in readiness to return to Calcutta on the first notice to fill up the vacancies which the departure of those gentlemen would have occasioned. In the stead of Messrs Batson and Billers we appointed Messrs O'Hara and Hay to be of council at Patna who are accordingly gone to that factory.

87. Mr. Frankland continuing his resolution of returning to Europe this season we directed Mr. Sumner to repair to Calcutta and take charge of the export warehouse, we esteeming him the best qualified to fill that office from the superior knowledge he has acquired by his experience and extraordinary attention in the provision of the investments at Dacca.

88. As by your commands received in 1755 and confirmed by your orders last year the allowance of 4,000 rupees per annum made Mr. Manningham as Export Warehouse Keeper cannot be continued to his successors without your approbation we beg leave to recommend the making Mr. Sumner the same allowance as we are well assured he will exert his utmost for the service of his employers in the post he is intrusted with, which, added to his being deprived of a station which had a salary of three thousand rupees annexed to it, we think fully entitles him to this mark of your favour. We beg leave to observe likewise that Mr. Frankland acted in this post one whole year without receiving any gratuity.

89. In the room of Mr. Sumner we have appointed Mr. Charles Stafford Playdell Chief of Dacca who proposes setting out in a few days for that factory.

90. Captain Henry Spelman, who was sent out for this establishment in the year 1755 but has been detained at Madrass untill this season, arrived here in the month of April and demanded a commission agreeable to his standing but as we found such a promotion would supersede all our present officers except Captains Gowin and Fenwick and by that means ^{on} occasion resignation of many of them we did not approve

demand but have conferred a commission on him as youngest captain of the corps.

91. In the month of September we permitted Captain Henry Deleval to proceed to Madrass and are since informed that he has obtained a company in Colonel Draper's battalion.

92. Lieutenant Cobbe Pitman has resigned the service on our denying him the command of Captain Deleval's company, to which he thought himself intitled to succeed. We did not think he had any title to this promotion as it could not have been done without great injury to many others.

93. On the face of our consultation of the 15th October you will observe a letter from Captain John Dyer requesting our leave to resign his commission in consequence of some disputes which had arose betwixt him and the corps of officers, which request of his we assented to.

94. Mr. Robert Millagan, who came out last year by your permission, departed this life the 26th November.

95. Mr. Scrafton having for a long time past laboured under a very bad state of health he in the month of September requested our permission to go to Madrass in order to try what effect the change of air might have which we accordingly assented to.

96. Mr. Ralph Leycester having likewise been afflicted with constant ill health for a considerable time and it being the opinion of the surgeons that he has no other chance to re-establish his constitution but by returning to Europe he addressed us for that purpose on the 14th November. As we are convinced of the truth of what Mr. Leycester has set forth we have consented to his going home for the recovery of his health and beg leave to recommend him to Your Honors' notice and favour.

97. In our letters of last season you were informed of the permission we had granted Mr. Richard Wilder to remain in India another year, in order to perfect his machine and accustom the winders to the use of it. As that period is now nearly elapsed we have given Mr. Wilder notice to prepare to go to the Cormandel Coast in order to proceed to China agreeable to his original contract with you.

98. As the whole Select Committee had determined on leaving India this year we thought proper to appoint Mr. Holwell a member of that Committee in the month of August in order that he might obtain a thorough insight of the chain of business transacted by those gentlemen before their departure.

99. Upon the arrival of the writers of this season they were called before us and asked how they had been treated during the voyage to India by their respective captains when they all expressed themselves well satisfied. They were stationed in the several offices they were most wanted agreeable to the minutes of Council.

100. The post of Sub-Treasurer becoming vacant by the appointment of Mr. O'Hara to Patna, we made choice of Mr. William Rider to fill it and appointed Mr. Philip Milner Dacres Sub-Accomptant in his room.

101. Assistants being very much wanted at Cossimbuzar and Dacca we

have appointed Mr. Edward Oakes to the first and Mr. Thomas French to Dacca.

102. Colonel Francis Forde left Masulipatam in October and arrived here in the *Leopard* snow in a very bad state of health. On his recovery, notwithstanding your dismissal of him from the service, at the particular request of the President he took the command of the army which acted in conjunction with the Nabob against the Dutch. It is a very sensible mortification to us to find Your Honors so highly disapprove our appointment of that gentlemen to the Majority of this settlement. The justice he has done to our choice will best appear by his great and glorious actions and we most sincerely wish the Company may not some time or other experience the fatal effects of your neglecting the recommendation of us, your Governour and Council, who by long experience ought to be the best judges of the merit of individuals abroad.

103. The Reverend Mr. More, whom you appointed one of the chaplains of this Presidency, arrived on the *Calcutta* and has accordingly been instituted agreeable to your orders.

104. In consequence of a letter from the President to Governour Pigot Mr. Tyso Saul Hancock left Madrass and came down to this place. We have thought proper to appoint him Surgeon at Cossimbuzar in the room of Mr. William Forth who is returning to Europe. We must beg leave to observe to Your Honors that Mr. Hancock was so highly servicable to the settlement of Fort St. George that nothing but the particular request of Colonel Clive could have prevailed on the gentlemen of that place to part with him. We must therefore take the liberty to recommend him to you as a person of great experience in his profession and particularly attentive to his duty. We propose he shall succeed to the next vacancy after Mr. Taylor is provided for.

105. Mr. Pearkes is at present absënt. When he returns we shall inform him of your orders and demand the amount of the duties on the sale of the *Betsey's* cargoe at Surat.

106. The 75th paragraph of your letter per *Prince Henry* has filled us with the greatest concern and uneasiness as we find we have fallen under your severest displeasure for drawing so largely on you that year. We must acknowledge that in our letter per *Diligent* schooner we hinted our intentions of drawing the bills of that season at a twelvemonths' sight, and it actually became the subject of our deliberation to protract the time of payment but upon a mature consideration the majority of the Board were of opinion that we had no authority to alter either the term or exchange established by Your Honors without running a risque of rendering the bills invalid. The large amount we drew for we did not imagine would have involved Your Honors in any great difficulties as we had before the capture drawn for near two hundred thousand pounds in one season without being disapproved of and we imagined the encrease of our drafts of that season would scarce be any inconvenience to the Company's affairs, after having requested a stop might be put to sending out the usual supplies of bullion for three years. The late arrival of the ships that season in England we could not possibly foresee, and as Mr. Pigot was timely advised by our then President of the sum we should be obliged to give bills for, we naturally concluded that the drafts from that Presidency would be very short of former years and consequently the bills

from the Coast and Bay together would exceed but very little in amount what was usually granted. It was not possible for us to imagine or foresee that the Company's credit was so low in Europe that it could be affected very materially by an encrease in our annual drafts of one hundred or one hundred and fifty thousand pounds, especially at a time when such advantages had been acquired for them in these provinces. In short we find that your resentment has been levelled at us for being ignorant of the true state of the Company's affairs in Europe and supposing them to be in a more flourishing condition than they really are.

107. We have in our letters of last season given you our reasons at length for advancing the sum of twenty laaks of rupces to the navy and army. We shall not therefore trouble you with a repetition of those motives, having the pleasure to acquaint you that however precipitate or inconsiderate our conduct might have been in making the advance our employers are likely to benefit near seven laaks by the contract, the greatest part of the Nabob's debt being already collected and little doubt left of having the balance punctually paid.

108. The notice you have taken of the bills granted to some few particular [persons] is matter of much amazement to us as the sums we gave them bills for were very far short of what they applied for and chiefly granted to those gentlemen who were on their return to Europe and were in want of some money for their expences at their first arrival. The indulgence to Captain Spckes were on account the obligations we thought the Company were under to him in promoting the coming of the squadron up the river; and the bills granted Colonel Fordc were only for the ballance of money in his hands belonging to Colonel Adlercron's regiment which he requested in His Majesty's name.

109. We transmitted you last year an explicit account of the transactions relating to the *Doddaley's* cotton to which we desire to be referred.

110. You will find by our treasury accounts that the Company's interest was not neglected in the duties of the coral lost at the capture which was duly accounted for by the gentlemen who recovered restitution for that loss. But we are surprised at your thinking the encrease of 15 per cent allowed the sufferers for near 18 months was beyond reason when it is only the common interest of their money. The 5 per cent to the Commissioners was never allowed or paid by the Board.

111. Mr. John Hackett one of the cadets sent out last year on the *Prince George* was appointed an assistant in the Secretary's office as we were in great want of writers there. He is now stationed an assistant at Moraudbaug at the particular request of Mr. Hastings, and as we are in hopes that gentleman will be able to render the Company great service in future by acquiring the Persian language which he is directed to apply to, having a particular talent that way, we beg leave therefore to recommend him to be entertained on the list of covenanted servants.

112. We have not hitherto had time to make any particular enquiry concerning the information you have received of Kissendass,³ his giving a sum of money before the capture of the settlement for the protection of the English but Mr. Holwell, immediately on the receipt of your commands of

23rd March 1759 having delivered in a letter about that charge, as entered after our consultation of the 8th November, we have tendered Mr. Holwell the oath he has annexed at the end of his address. The President informs us that when he was at Muxadavad he enquired of Radgbullub (father to Kissendass) if money for our protection was given by his son, to which Radgbullub replied that he never knew or heard of any money being given to any gentleman at that time in Council but that a box of jewells and pearls was deposited in the care of Luckicondore when the troubles begun, which box of jewells Luckicondore acquaints us was lost at the capture in a sloop it was laden on.

Seventhly, touching accounts

113. In your commands of the 3rd March 1758 you refer us to the remarks of your Auditor for adjusting and methodizing the general books of this Presidency since the capture, in consequence of which we appointed Messrs Manningham, Holwell and Cooke a committee to examine the instructions above mentioned, to make a calculation of the dead stock, buildings etc., as they now stand and from thence form an estimate what sums were necessary to be wrote off for losses sustained by the capture as likewise to point out the clearest method for adjusting and keeping the books in future. Their report you will find entered at large after our consultation of the 20th September to which we must refer for particulars.. Their plan being approved of by the Board it was ordered to be carried into execution, and as this performance would require the most indefatigable application as well abilities and our covenanted servants being in general fully employed in other parts of the Company's business, we gave the charge of bringing up the books from April 1755 agreeable to the plan of that committee to Mr. William Magee, whom we esteem a person well qualified for that service, and made him an allowance of two thousand five hundred Arcot rupees per annum. We flatter ourselves you will not disapprove of our having given the charge of your books to a person out of the service as we were of opinion it was the most expeditious method of having them brought up.

114. Upon our making this allowance to Mr. Magee we thought proper to strike off all the Sub-Accomptant's allowances except his annual gratuity of five hundred rupees as his duty is by this means rendered much more easy.

115. We have ordered a statement to be drawn out of the Company's debt at interest from the books of 1755 and hope from thence to ascertain pretty clearly the bonds which were lost by the capture of Calcutta, but as this statement has not yet been laid before us we must refer you to the latter ships for the result.

116. Finding some delays in the collection of the *tuncaws* on Burdwan and Nuddea we judged it necessary to send two of our covenanted servants to those places to expedite the collections and accordingly appointed Mr. Harry Verelst to proceed to Nuddea and Mr. Henry Lushington¹ to Burdwan with directions to exact the payment from the respective rajahs agreeable to the *kistebundee*. We have the pleasure to inform you that this method has had the desired effect and that there would have been no deficiency had it not been for the troubles which have been occasioned by the . . .

117. Mr. Lushington's presence being since required by the President we have recalled him and have appointed Mr. Verelst to proceed to that country and Mr. Samuel Howitt to Nuddea in his room.

118. Upon stating the accounts in September betwixt the Company and the sufferers by the capture of Calcutta in June 1756 we found there was sufficient in our hands to make the Europeans a further dividend of two annas in the rupee on their established claims which we accordingly ordered, but finding it would be impossible to make the whole advance in ready cash we directed the Committee of Treasury to discharge in money only such demands as did not amount to two thousand current rupées and that all claims above that sum should be paid by interest notes or bills of exchange on Europe. We have since made the same regulations with respect to the natives, Armenians and Portugueze, to the former of whom we have ordered a dividend of two annas, to the Armenians 6 and to the Portugueze 2 in the rupee on their established claims.

119. By the above dividend of two annas to the Europeans they have been paid the full principal of their demands but as there appears to be a large surplus still due to that fund, when the whole of the stipulations by the Nabob's treaty are complied with, we have agreed to allow them twenty per cent interest on their principal as established by the Commissioners and shall take into our future consideration the still remaining ballance.

120. We shall agreeable to your commands direct our Accomptant to draw up a statement of the Company's loss and the expences and disbursements of every kind consequential to the loss of Calcutta, which shall be carried to the debit of account compensation of money received from the Government, but this cannot be absolutely adjusted till the books and accounts under Mr. Magee's charge are methodized and brought into some order. In the meantime, by the latter ships of this season, we shall send you an account of the sums which will be received by that time from the Government, and the statement.

121. Before the receipt of your commands of 23rd March 1759 we had granted the following setts of bills of exchange on Your Honours by this ship payable at 365 days' sight and on the same terms as those drawn last year, amounting in all to CRs. 6,89,567-10- or £St. 77,596-19-3/4

One sett to Charles Manningham and Wm. Frankland Esqrs. payable to themselves or order for.....CRs. 12,960 . . . £St [1428]

One do to do payable to William Martin Esqr. 6,475-10-9...728-10-0.

One do to Mr. William Fullerton on account Captain Callendar payable to Messrs James Hodges and John Willis for 7,560-0-0...850-10.

One do to do on account Captain J. Dickenson payable to Hugh Ross Esqr. for.....20,000-0-0...2250-0-0.

One do to do account James Wilson payable to James Hodges and John Willis for.....9905-15...1114-8-4.

One do to Charles Manningham and Wm. Frankland Esqrs. in further part proceeds of one chest of coral R. B. No. 18 imported per *Walpole* payable to Richard and William Barwell Esqrs. for1193-2-9...134-4-8

- One sett to do payable to Phillip Joddrell Esqr.
.....CRs. 5,066-15-6...£St 570-8-0.
- One do to Captain Thomas Newton payable to Captain Thomas
Newton for26,666-10-9...3000-0-0.
- One do to Messrs William Mackett and William Fullerton account
the estate of Captain George Minchin payable to Messrs Colley Nixon
and John Barton for.....10,000-0-0...1125-0-0.
- One do to Mr. Culling Smith account Mr. George Dobbin payable
to Mr. Luke Medwin for.....1,500-0-0...168-15-0.
- One do to Mr. William Fullerton payable to John Fullerton Esqr.
for18,560-0-0...2088-0-0.
- One do to Messrs Hay and Lushington account John Walsh Esqr.
payable to John Walsh Esqr. for.....12,918-3-9...1453-6-0.
- One do to do account do. payable to do. for.....1000-0-0...112-10-0.
- One do to Edward Tuckey account the estate of Willis Orr deceased
payable to Mr. William Tuckey.....1793-6-0...201-15-4.
- One do to Mr. William Rider payable to Richard Baker Esqr. and
to Reverend Mr. Edward Rider for.....3,300-0-0...371-5-0.
- One do to Mr. William Alves payable to Mr. William Anderson for
.....3586-10-9...403-10-0.
- One do to Messrs Anselm Beaumont and Culling Smith payable to
David Rannic for.....5989-12-0...673-16-1.
- One do to Mr. James Harris payable to Mr. Andrew Gairdner for
.....1777-12-6...200-0-0.
- One do to Thomas Boddam and John Carnac Esqrs. on account
Colonel Francis Forde payable to Matthew Forde Esqr. in Dublin for
.....44,444-7-0...5000-0-0.
- One do to Messrs Ralph Leycester and Francis Charlton account
John Andrews Esqr. payable to Thomas Saunders and Messrs Thomas
and Nicholas Crisp for.....26,666-10-9...3,000-0-0.
- One do to Messrs Manningham and Frankland payable to Adam
Dawson Esqr. for.....5,661-15-9...636-19-6.
- One do to do payable to Thos. Saunders Esqr.....197-14-9...22-5-4.
- One do to do in further part restitution for a chest of amber
beads [Mark 12] No. 6 payable to Mr. James Adams or order for
.....228-4-9...25-13-8.
- One do to do in further part restitution for coral beads [Mark 19]
No. 1, 2 & 3 per *Eastcourt* and *Duke of Dorset* 1755 payable to Thomas
Godfrey Esqr. for.....1,627-6-9...183-1-8
- One do to do in further part restitution for coral beads [Mark 14]
No. 14 and [Mark 16] No. 1 per *Eastcourt* 1755 and in full returns of
[Mark 32] No. 2 per *Marlborough* 1756, payable to Joseph Salvador Esqr.
.....3,280-12-3...369-1-2.

- One sett to do in further part restitution for coral beads one chest [Mark 33] No. 11 per *Eastcourt* 1755 payable to Mr. Judah SupinoCRs. 268-1-0...£St 30-3-2.
- One do to do in further part restitution for coral beads [Mark 9] No. 5 per *True Briton* 1754, [Mark 9] No. 14 per *Eastcourt* 1755 payable to Messrs. Isaac Mendez da Costa and Nunes Brothers for688-8-3...77-9-2.
- One do to do payable to Cornelius Goodwin Esqr. for448-0-9...50-8-0.
- One do to Messrs Manningham and Frankland in further restitution for coral beads, emeralds etc., payable to Moseli Franco and Company for3592-12...404-3-8.
- One do to do payable to Adam Dawson Esqr.211-11-6...23-16-5.
- One do to do payable to Philip Joddrell Esqr.....136-10-9...15-6-11.
- One do to do payable to Captain Carteret Legeyt.....136-10-9...15-7-6.
- One do to Charles Manningham Esqr. on account the estate of William Knapton deceased payable to George Knapton Esqr. for184-12-9...20-15-9.
- One do to Mr. William Fullerton payable to Captain Joseph Smith for19,440-0-0...2187-0-0.
- One do to Mr. George Gray payable to Robert Gray and Thomas Mylus Esqrs. for.....2,974-8-0...334-12-9.
- One do to Mr. Alexander Carvalho payable to Mr. Alexander Carvalho for.....7873-14-0...885-16-2½.
- One do to Mr. Hugh Baillie junior payable to Mr. Hugh Baillie senior for.....3521-6-0...396-3-0.
- One do to Mr. Thomas Holme payable to Wastell Brisco Esqr. and Mr. Thomas Holme.....13,333-5-6...1500-0-0.
- One do to Thomas Boddam Esqr. account William Mc. Guire Esqr. payable to Arthur Annesley Esqr.....8888-14-0...1000-0-0.
- One do to Messrs Culling Smith and Anselm Beaumont in full for one chest of coral marked B No. 3 received per ship *Denham* 1754 payable to Abram and Jacob Franco for.....450-0-0...50-12-6.
- One do to do in full for 2 chests of coral imported per ship *Eastcourt* 1755 marked L. S. No. 19 and A L No. 1, and one chest of amber beads imported per ship *Norfolk* 1754 marked L S No. 27 payable to Jacob De Natal, Levi Sensino and Company for.....814-6-0...91-12-4½.
- One do to Messrs. Culling Smith and Anselm Beaumont in part value of one chest of coral imported per ship *Denham* 1754 marked [Mark 1] R No. 3 payable to Moseh Franco and Company for325-2-0...36-11-6.
- One sett to do in part value of one chest of false amber payable to David De Castro125-0-0...14-1-3.

One sett to do in part value of two chests of coral imported per ship *Duke of Dorset* 1755 mark R B No. 14 and 15 and two chests of coral imported per ship *Eastcourt* 1755 R. B. No. 16 and 17 and eight chests of amber beads mark RB No. 3 and 4 imported per *Egmont* 1753, No. 5 imported per *Falmouth* 1753, No. 11 imported per *Norfolk* 1754, No. 14 and 16 imported per *Yorke* 1754, No. 18 imported per *Duke of Dorset* 1755 and No. 19 imported per ship *Eastcourt* 1755 payable to Messrs Richard and William Barwell for...CRs. 10,336-0-0...£St. 1,162-16-0.

One do to do payable to Roger Drake, Beeston Long and Roger Drake junior Esqrs for.....60,000-0-0...6,750-0-0.

One do to Charles Manningham Esqr. on account of Robert Orme Esqr. payable to Peter and Joseph Godfrey Esqrs for 11292-6-0...1270-7-4.

One do to Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqrs. in full returns for one chest of coral beads mark [Mark 34] No. 3 imported at Madrass per *Godolphin* 1756 payable to Messrs Jacob Espinoza and Nathan Modigliani.....7,285-0-9...819-11-4.

One do to Charles Manningham and William Mackett Esqrs and Mr. Luke Scrafton account the estate of Nicholas Clarembault deceased payable to Benjamin Longuet and Joseph Guinand Esqrs. for4117-4-9...463-3-1.

One do to Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqrs payable to the said Charles Manningham and William Frankland Esqrs for17,534-11-6...1,972-13-4.

One do to Mr. Charles O'Hara payable to Patrick O'Hara Esqr. for444-7-0...50-0-0.

One do to the Hon'ble Lewis payable to Captain Tom Lewis for7,768-12-9...873-19-9.

One do to the Hon'ble Robert Clive Esqr. account the estate of Willis Orr deceased payable to Richard Clive Esqr. for 1069-8-0...120-6-4.

One do to Dr. George Gray payable to Mrs. Agnes Soissons for800-0-0...90-0-0.

One do to Mr. Hugh Baillie payable to Captain Tom Lewis for3208-12-0...360-19-10.

One do to Dr. George Gray payable to himself or order for4164-2-6...468-9-0.

One do to Mr. William Fullerton payable to Edward Holden Cruttenden Esqr. for.....45000-0-0...5062-10-0.

One do to do account the estate of William Craigs deceased payable to Mr. John Fullerton.....12,000-0-0...1350-0-0.

One do to do account James Wilson payable to Messrs James Hodges and John Willis for.....3235-8-0...363-19-10.

One do to do account the estate of Thomas Coales deceased payable to Captain Thomas Townsend for.....8910-0-0...1002-7-6.

One do to do account the estate of William Lindsay deceased payable to Robert Orme Esqr. for.....400-0-0...450-0-0.

One sett to do payable to Mr. Thos. Raitt for CRs. 3000...	£St. 337-10-0.
One do to do account the estate of Francis Stevenson payable to Mr. William Ferguson for.....	1620-0-0...182-5-0.
One do to do payable to Captain George Meard.....	130-0-0...14-12-6.
One do to do payable to Mr. Edmund Massey.....	188-0-0...21-3-0.
One do to do account the estate of James Valicourt deceased payable to Mr. John Fullerton for.....	10070-0-0...1132-17-6.
One do to do account of Mr. Archibald Campbell payable to Daniel Campbell Esqr.	1085-0-0...122-1-3.
One do to Mr. William Fullerton on account of Mr. David Robertson payable to Mr. Andrew Moffatt.....	1343-14-0...151-3-9.
One do to Dr. George Gray on account of Mr. Stair Dalrymple deceased payable to Sir Hugh Dalrymple Bart for.....	258-11-0...29-2-0.
One do to do payable to John Browne Esqr.....	110-5-0...12-8-7.
One do to Mr. Francis Douglass payable to the said Mr. Francis Douglass for	2323-4-0...261-7-3.
One do to John Zephaniah Holwell Esqr. account the estate of Thomas Purnell deceased payable to William Davis Esqr. for.....	1013-9-0...114-0-6.
One do to do account the estate of Thomas Parker deceased payable to William Davis Esqr. for.....	1155-9-0...130-0-0.
One do to do account the estate of Thomas Leech deceased payable to do for	1600-0-0...180-0-0.
One do to do account Captain Francis Cheyne payable to do for	191-1-0...21-9-10.
One do to do account the estate of Aylmer Harrod deceased payable to do for	191-4-6...21-10-4.
One do to do account the estate of Ralph Thoresby deceased payable to do for	177-9-0...19-19-6.
One do to do account the estate of John Street deceased payable to do for	89-1-9...10-0-6.
One do to do account Mr. George Heath payable to do for	82-9-0...9-5-9.
One do to do account the estate of Nathaniel Jacobs deceased payable to do for	265-9-0...29-17-6.
One do to do account the estate of Robert Wilkinson deceased payable to do for	378-15-3...42-12-8.
One do to do account Mr. Mordecai Walker payable to do for	495-9-0...55-15-0.
One do to do payable to do for.....	10666-10-9...1200-0-0.
One do to William Frankland Esqr. payable to Frederick and Thomas Frankland Esqrs. for	42008-4-3...4725-18-7.

One sett to Messrs Abram Gee and John Gould executors to the estate of Captain William Holland deceased on account the estate of Captain Thomas Winter deceased payable to Mrs. Mary WinterCRs. 8889-10-3...£St. 1000-1-8.

One do to the Hon'ble Robert Clive Esqr. payable to the Hon'ble Sir Edward Clive Kt, William Belchier, Richard Clive and William Smith King Esqrs. for.....71345-12-9...8026-8-0.

One do to J. Z. Holwell Esqr. account the estate of Colonel Caroline Frederick Scott payable to George Scott Esqr. for.....8203-9-0...922-18-0.

One do to do account Nathan Drake deceased payable to Edward Wharton Esqr. for.....1149-6-6...129-6-2.

One do to Mr. George Gray payable to Mr. William Grahame for495-9-0...55-15-0.

One do to do payable to Mr. Alexander Robertson for.....210-7-0...23-13-6.

One do to do account the estate of William Grubb deceased payable to Henry Grubb Esqr. for.....200-0-0...22-10-0

One do to Mr. William Rider account Captain Joseph Smith payable to Captain Joseph Smith for.....19242-2-9...2184-19-10.

One do to Henry Lushington payable to Roger Altham Esqr. for4444-7-0...500-0-0.

122. We have since the 5th November granted the undermentioned setts payable at 365 days after sight at 2s-3¼d per current rupee free of any interest, the whole drawn on these terms amounting to CRs....or £St.....

One sett to Mr. Henry Lushington account the estate of George Ballard deceased payable to George Ballard Esqr. for.....194-12-9...22-6-5.

One do to Mr. Ascanius William Senior payable to Miss Rachael Senior for.....872-11-9...100-0-0.

One do to Mr. Abram Gee administrator to the estate of Robert Lester deceased payable to Mr. Charles Hay for.....4668-1-6...534-17-8.

One do to Mr. Anselm Beaumont payable to Mr. David Rannie27733-10-9...3177-16-4.

One do to do payable to Messrs Gamon and Challoner for5917-10-0...678-1-3.

One do to do on account the estate of Mr. William Wogan payable to Mrs. Catherine Beaumont.....3333-8-0...381-19-3.

One do to Mr. Charles Weston on account of Robert Bissett payable to Mr. John Jolliffe for.....216-0-0...24-15-0.

One do to Mr. John Gould payable to Mrs. Ann Gould for.....1119-0-0...128-4-4.

One do to Baron Vasserott payable to Messrs Francis and John Duval for12021-14-3...1377-10-2.

One do to do payable to Messrs Bossiers and Company for6081-1-9...696-15-11.

One sett to Captain James Macdonald payable to Edward Lowrey Esqr. for	CRs. 1600-0-0...£St. 183-6-8.
One do to Messrs Rider and O'Hara account Captain Peter Carstairs payable to Mr. Alexander Callendar for.....	1745-7-3...200-0-0.
One do to Mr. William Rider account William Jennings payable to William Jennings and John Baker Esqrs. for.....	8727-4-3...1000-0-0.
One do to William Sumner Esqr. payable to the Reverend Dr. John Sumner and Mr. Robert Sumner for.....	16200-0-0...1856-5-0.
One do to Mr. Samuel Waller payable to William Waller, James Adams and Henry Brougham Esqrs. for.....	26181-13-0...3000-0-0.
One do to do payable to do for.....	11618-3-0...1331-5-0.
One do to Captain George Wilson payable to himself or order for	17,454-8-6...2,000-0-0.
One do to Mr. William Rider payable to Richard Baker Esqr. and the Reverend Edmond Rider for.....	4363-10-0...500-0-0.
One do to do account William Jennings to William Jennings and John Baker Esqrs. for.....	8727-4-3...1000-0-0.
One do to William Mackett Esqr. account the estate of Captain Robert Sanderson deceased payable to Mr. John Browne for	875-0-0...100-5-2.
One do to Mr. Thomas French account Daniel De Castro payable to Benjamin Mendez De Castro for.....	1012-2-6...115-19-6.
One do to Mr. John Donnellon payable to himself or order for	10,000-0-0...1245-16-8.
One do to Richard Beecher Esqr. and Captain Brooke Samson account the estate of Captain John Samson deceased payable to John Hallett Esqr. for	22,000-0-0...2933-6-8.

Supplement

123. By a country vessell which sailed for Bussorah in September we addressed a few lines to you to be forwarded overland by your Resident at that place, copy of which address we now enclose, wherein you will observe the success of the expedition to the northward under the command of Colonel Clive who penetrated to the utmost limitts of Bahar and reduced to obedience the rajahs of the Budgpore country who had been in a state of rebellion for many years past. By this march of our forces to the northward the country was saved from falling into the hands of the Shawzadah who had actually attacked the city of Patna and would most certainly have carried it had not the timely approach of our army made him abandon his designs. After his retreat the forces he brought with him dispersed and he was himself obliged to retire in the greatest distress.

124. By intelligence lately received from the Nabob and our Chief at Patna we find that the Shawzadah is again endeavouring to create fresh troubles but we think there is little to be apprehended as we do not learn he is supported by anybody of consequence; and we have reason to judge his

influence will daily decline as we are credibly informed that his father, the Mogul, has lately been cut off by the Vizier and a grandson of Aurungzeb placed upon the throne in his stead. The Nabob had, on this account and to put a stop to the troubles rising in Poorneah, called on us again for our assistance. Major Caillaud has accordingly taken the field and marched to the northward with a body of about four hundred Europeans and a thousand *seapoys* in order to join the forces of the Nabob and to co-operate with them in finally settling the troubles in Poorneah and Bahar.

125. Sometime since the *Victoria* snow returned from the Negrais with an account of Mr. Southby and all the Europeans there having been unhappily cutt off by the Burmans and that great part of the timbers and stores there belonging to the Company had been plundered and burnt.

126. You were informed in a short letter we wrote Your Honours under date the 22nd October, and enclosed to your Resident at Bussorah to be forwarded from thence to London, that the Dutch had brought a large military force into Bengall but that we were in hopes it would be attended with no further consequences as the Subah had expressed his disapprobation of their landing any troops at Chinchurah and the Directore of their factory had promised to send them away as soon as the season would admit of their ships leaving the river. We are now to acquaint you that the Dutch under several pretences put off the sending away their ships and forces till the Nabob returned to Muxadavad, after which they sent us a long protest for assisting the Subah in denying their ships and boats with military a passage up the river, declaring their resolution to oblige us to desist from searching their boats and vessells, to use reprisals for what we had already done and to repel force with force in case they were opposed in landing their troops. As we acted by the Nazim's orders in not suffering them to land their forces, who had called upon us for our assistance by virtue of the treaty made with him, we determined to persist in our resolution to oppose the passage of their ships and boats with military, and in order to do it more effectually in case they attempted to carry them up in their ships we directed the commanders of the *Calcutta*, *Duke of Dorset* and *Hardwicke* to proceed down to their ships to bring them up to assist the batterys at Tannah. Before they came as high as Fultah the Dutch ships laying there began hostilities against us in the most open manner by firing shot at several English vessells that were passing them (among the rest, the Company's snow *Leopard* with advices for Admiral Cornish), seizing and detaining them, striking the English colours and taking out their guns, stores and some of their people.

127. Upon the first notice hereof we wrote the Directore and Council of Hughley what had been done by the commanders of their ships and desired to know whether the same was done by their approbation and orders as we should esteem it an open declaration of war in such case; and if done without their authority we could not but look upon it as an act of piracy and should expect satisfaction for such violent proceedings. From this time we directed our guard at the aforesaid batteries to stop all Dutch boats and vessells passing up and down the river but not to touch the effects or molest the persons of any who might be on board. Not long after, we received a fresh insult from the Dutch at Hughley whose watch boats on the 20th at night surrounded a party of our *seapoys* who were bringing down Coja Wazeed to Calcutta

ordering them to put ashore, and upon the *Jemandar* of the *seapoys* refusing to comply they fired upon our party and wounded one of our men but were drove off by the fire of our *seapoys*. Such repeated outrages left us no room to doubt the Dutch at Chinchurah designed acting against us in a more hostile manner in case they were strengthened by the landing of the party from their ships, which determined us more than ever to oppose that step and therefore, upon the first intelligence we received of their having disembarked their troops at Sankaraul, we detached our whole garrison of about 250 Europeans and about 1200 *seapoys* under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Forde with orders to encamp off Chinchurah and in conjunction with the Nabob's forces to oppose their passage into the Dutch bounds, which he was absolutely to prevent even by using force if he found it necessary.

128. At the same time we gave Commodore Wilson directions to send on board the commanding officer of the Dutch ships and demand immediate restitution of the ships and vessels they had seized and detained with their stores and effects and in case of refusal to take or destroy their ships and vessels which he accordingly put in execution. The Dutch Commodore having refused to comply with his demand, our ships attacked her and after a brisk engagement of an hour and half she struck as did also the other ships in company.

129. On the 24th Colonel Forde with the troops under his command entered the town of Chandernagore with intention to encamp there that evening but were attacked on their entrance by a detachment of Europeans and *seapoys* from Chinchurah with 5 field pieces. This party was soon obliged to give ground and retreat into their own bounds with the loss of near 40 Europeans killed and wounded and all their field pieces. The next morning Colonel Forde received intelligence that the body of Europeans and *Buggasses* landed from their ships and a detachment that had joined them from Chinchurah were very near and in full march to Chinchurah. Hereupon he marched his men likewise into the plain to meet them and oppose their passage. A very warm action ensued which ended in the total defeat of the Dutch troops who were obliged to give ground and save themselves by flight. Their army consisted of near 700 Europeans and as many *Buggasses*. The greatest part of those who escaped being killed in the action were made prisoners and sent to Calcutta. Immediately after this event the Directors and Council of Hughley wrote us a letter requesting we would put a stop to further hostilities and concur with them in accommodating the differences between the two settlements which they were ready to do on such terms as might prove satisfactory to both parties. Hereupon we ordered Colonel Forde to proceed no further and acquainted the Directors and Council in our answer that we were extremely glad to find they had adopted other measures, and should use our influence with the Nabob and engage him to be reconciled to them on their complying with his orders.

130. During these transactions the young nabob was marching down with a large army with a full resolution to destroy Chinchurah and drive the Dutch intirely out of the country for breaking their engagement to his father; and we heard from Moraudbaug that their factory at Calcapoor was surrounded and that orders had been sent to do the same at Patna.

131. When the young nabob drew near to Hughley the President

acquainted the Board he proposed going up to Gharetti to meet him and confer on the present state of the differences with the Dutch. At the same time we appointed Messrs Becher and Cook to proceed up the river and pay our respects to the young nabob. As the Dutch expressed a desire of appointing commissaries to settle and adjust the terms of a mutual accommodation we appointed the above mentioned gentlemen to meet their deputies at Gharetti and confer with them on the subject of the late differences.

132. Those gentlemen accordingly proceeded up to Gharetti and having settled the preliminaries of a general agreement (which they transmitted to the Board and had our approbation of) they returned to Calcutta and laid the same before the Board, ratified and confirmed by the Directore and Council of Hughley. We in like manner ratified the same and upon exchanging the treaties we directed Messrs Boddam and Playdell to go down the river and deliver up to the Dutch deputies all the ships, vessels, sloops and boats in our possession with their effects and stores taking a receipt for the same. We beg leave to be referred to our consultations and the report of Messrs Becher and Cooke entered after our proceedings of the 8th December for the articles of the treaty we have concluded with them as likewise for the articles they have signed to with the Nabob which the President laid before us on the 24th instant.

133. In the foregoing recital of our transactions with the Dutch we have been very summary and touched upon nothing but the material parts that preserve the thread of the narrative. For further particulars of that whole affair (from the first intelligence we received of the armament making in Batavia to the conclusion of the treaty) we beg leave to stand referred to our consultations, the separate book of letters that have passed between us and the Dutch, and the enclosed memorial of facts wherein we have explained as fully as possible the orders of the Nazim, our whole conduct in consequence of those orders, the violent behaviour of the Dutch ships and our proceedings thereupon with all and every singular circumstance relative to that troublesome affair which we hope you will approve of as we have consulted nothing but the interest of our employers and their influence in the country which would have been entirely destroyed had the Dutch been permitted to land their troops to Chinchurah unmolested. The consequences whereof would have been the total ruin of the Company's affairs in India as the money still due account the treaty would never have been collected and we utterly disabled from supplying the gentlemen of Fort St. George (pursuant to your orders) with the sum of money they have wrote for by which means our affairs on the Coast would have been reduced to the same distressed situation that the French now labour under. This we must have suffered by the loss of our influence only in the country but we have great reason to believe the Dutch intended carrying things to greater extremities and, if we may believe the reports of some of their own people, our expulsion was meditated and determined on had they found themselves strong enough to have put that design in execution.

134. In the late troubles with the Dutch the gentlemen who, we before informed you, had associated themselves as an independant company behaved remarkably well and was [were] of great service. Part of that corps formed themselves into a body of horse at the request of the President under the

command of their captain, Mr. William Rider, who was unfortunately shot in the action through the body and died a few days after of that wound. We beg leave in this place to mention the gallant behaviour of your junior servants in general on this occasion many of them having acted as volunteers with the military and exerted themselves greatly to the satisfaction of Lieutenant Colonel Forde.

135. Mr. Ellis will have a seat at our Board on his arrival here agreeable to the rank you have appointed him to; but we beg leave to observe that by this nomination you have superseded eleven of your servants on this establishment whose zeal for the Company and fidelity in their employment have never been questioned. Such a conduct on your part, we apprehend, can never promote the service of that body who have entrusted you with the direction of their affairs, as it must render the servants abroad less assiduous in their stations and zealous for the interest of their employers when they find their labours thus requited without any particular demerit on their side. Though it is probable the Company will not feel any bad effects in the present case, those gentlemen who have been thus superseded having too true a sense of their duty to neglect the interest of their employers for any ill treatment whatever, yet we are of opinion they will remain no longer in the service than their circumstances oblige them to. We might say the same thing with regard to your appointment of Captain James Barton to be so high in Council that the government of this Presidency would have devolved upon him had he lived after the departure of Colonel Clive. How well soever he might be qualified for the post of Master Attendant we should have been greatly apprehensive for the consequences had he been left in the chair.

136. The Mogul having conferred on Colonel Clive the honor of a *mansubdarry*, the Subah of these provinces, from a sense of the very eminent services rendered him by Colonel Clive, particularly on his late expedition to the northward, has thought proper to present him with the annual rent of those lands which were before paid to himself agreeable to treaty. This will be more particularly explained to you by a copy of the Nabob's *phirmaund* for the grant entered after our consultation of 6th September in consequence of which we have paid to Colonel Clive what was before paid the Subah and shall continue in future to account with him instead of the Government.

137. The President has received the letter addressed him by the Secret Committee under date 1st November 1758 and begs leave to apologize for not before acknowledging the receipt of that under date the 8th March 1758, which was intirely owing to his absence last season on the expedition to the northward.

138. Messrs Manningham, Becher, Frankland, Macket, Boddam and Cooke returning to Europe on the ships under dispatch, agreeable to their several minutes of Council, we have filled up their posts in the following manner: Mr. Ellis, when he arrives, to be Chief of Cossimbuzar; as most of the gentlemen succeeding to Council have resided chiefly at subordinates, and as it is necessary that as many of the senior servants who have resided mostly in Calcutta and are consequently most conversant in the chain of the current business should be at the Board, we have agreed to keep Mr. Gwire in Calcutta and have appointed him Import Warehouse Keeper and

Accomptant, Mr. Baston *Buxey* and Pay Master of the Works, Mr. Billers Chief of Luckipore, Mr. Verelst Sea Custom Master and Mr. Harry Smyth Land Custom Master.

139. Mr. Nicholas Smythe having requested our permission to resign the service we have consented to the same and he accordingly returns to Europe on the *Denham*.

140. On the face of our consultations of the 12th November and 17th December you will observe letters from Messrs Becher and Culling Smith concerning your accusation of them with respect to the copper etc. To those consultations we must beg leave to refer you for our proceedings thereon and shall in this place only assure you that we are firmly persuaded neither of those gentlemen connived at the copper etc., being landed nor were in any shape concerned in the purchases.

141. Captain Wilson having applied to us for fifty tons of saltpetre on half freight we have complied with his request and have loaded that quantity on the *Calcutta* as per separte bill of lading.

142. We have laden sundry goods on the *Calcutta* amounting, as per invoice and bill of lading inclosed in her packet, to CRs. 900,500-0-0, and on the *Hardwicke* sundry goods amounting, as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed in that ship's packet, to CRs. 781,700-0-0.

143. We have laden also sundry stores on each of these ships for the use of the island of St. Helena and have forwarded the invoices and bills of lading for the same to the Governour and Council of that island.

144. We have shipped on the *Calcutta* and *Hardwicke* twelve French prisoners as per list enclosed in their packetts.

145. The *Stormont*, Captain Fletcher, arrived in the river the 22nd instant. As she parted company with the *Ajax* and *Houghton* off the coast of Arracan we are in hourly expectation of their arrival.

146. We must beg leave to apologize for the incorrectness and badness of the writing of the consultations etc., papers sent on these ships which has been owing to all the junior servants taking up arms on the late expedition against the Dutch and the business thereby being done in too great a hurry.

147. Having fully spoken to every branch of your affairs at this Presidency under their established heads we cannot, consistent with the real anxiety we feel for the future welfare of that respectable body for whom you and we are in trust, close this address without expostulating with freedom on the unprovoked and general asperity of your letter per *Prince Henry* packett. Our sentiments on this head will, we doubt not, acquire additional weight from the consideration of their being subscribed by a majority of your Council who are at this very period quitting your service and consequently independant and disinterested. Permit us to say that the diction of your letter is most unworthy yourselves and us in whatever relation considered, either as masters to servants or gentlemen to gentlemen. Mere inadvertencies and casual neglects arising from an unavoidable and most complicated confusion in the state of your affairs has been treated in such language and sentiments as nothing but the most glaring and premeditated frauds could warrant. Groundless informations have without further scrutiny bore with

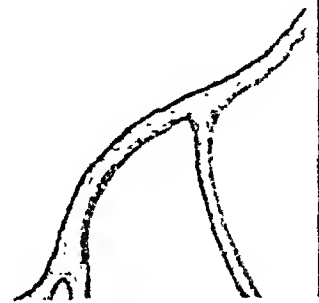
you the stamp of truth, though proceeding from those who had therein obviously their own purpose to serve, no matter at whose expence. These have received from you such countenance and encouragement as must, most assuredly, tend to cool the warmest zeal of your servants here and everywhere else, as they will appear to have been only the source of general reflexions thrown out at random against your faithful servants of this Presidency in various parts of your letter before us—faithful to little purpose, if the breath of scandal joined to private picque or private and personal attachments have power to blow away in one hour the merits of many years' services and deprive them of that rank and those rising benefitts which are justly a spur to their integrity and application. The little attention shewn to these considerations in the indiscriminate favour heaped on some individuals and undeserved frowns on others will, we apprehend, lessen that spirit of zeal so very essential to the well being of your affairs and consequently in the end, if continued, prove the destruction of them. Private views may, it is much to be feared, take the lead here from examples at home and no gentleman hold your service longer nor exert themselves further in it than their own exigencies require. This being the real present state of your service it becomes strictly our duty to represent it in the strongest light or we should with little truth and less propriety subscribe ourselves.

May it please Your Honors,

Robert Clive/C. Manningham/R. Becher/W. Frankland/J. Z. Holwell/
W. Mackett/J. Boddam/C. S. Playdell/W. B. Sumner/ W. Mc. Gwire/John
Cooke.

Fort William, 29th December 1759.

A S E M



NOTES

NOTES

LETTERS FROM COURT

No. 1—25 March 1757.

1. Letters of Marque (p. 6)—A letter of marque was originally a license granted by a sovereign to a subject, authorising him to make reprisals on the subjects of a hostile state for injuries alleged to have been done to him by the enemy's army. In later times this became practically a license to fit out an armed vessel and employ it in the capture of the merchant shipping belonging to the enemy's subjects, the holder of 'letter of marque', called a privateer or corsair, being entitled by international law to commit against the hostile nation acts which would otherwise have been condemned as piracy.

2. Plaisted (p. 9)—Bartholomew Plaisted, originally of the Bombay establishment, was appointed Engineer at Fort William in 1752 and Master Attendant in 1755. He was suspended from service shortly after, but was reinstated in 1758 as Surveyor of Works.

3. Holwell (p. 12)—John Zephaniah Holwell joined the E. I. Company's service on 2 July 1752. He came into prominence in 1756 when after the desertion of Drake he undertook the defence of Fort William. After the surrender of the fort, according to his own testimony, he was locked up with other prisoners in the Black Hole. He was later taken to Murshidabad but released at the intercession of the Nawab's grandmother, the widow of Ali Verdi Khan. Then he joined the English fugitives at Falta and became a member of the Council and the Select Committee. Shortly after the recovery of Calcutta by Clive he left for England, but returned to service in 1758 as a member of the Council.

4. Omichand (p. 13)—Omichand, also called Umichand and Amirchand, acted as an agent of the English for the purchase of goods in Bengal for many years. He was suspected of having incited the Nawab against the English, and was imprisoned when Sirajud-Daulah approached Calcutta. When Clive recovered Calcutta he took him into favour, and induced him to accompany Watts to Murshidabad after the conclusion of the treaty of 9 February 1757. At Murshidabad he proved useful to the English. In the intrigues against Sirajud-Daulah he proposed the name of Yar Latif Khan as Nawab and threatened to disclose the plot unless he was promised a good share of the spoils. He was, however, hoodwinked by Clive by being shown a forged copy of the treaty in which his claims were admitted. When he came to know of it he retired to Malda and died there of the shock.

5. Watts (p. 14)—William Watts joined the E. I. Company's service on 2 May 1737. He was Chief of the Cossimbazar factory in 1756 when the place was captured by Sirajud-Daulah. After the treaty of 9 February 1757, he went to Murshidabad as the envoy of the Company. Just before the battle of Plassey he fled from Murshidabad, and returned when Mir Jafar became the Nawab. Subsequently he became a member of the Council and the Select Committee at Fort William.

6. Clerembault (p. 14)—Nicholas Clerembault, member of the Council at Fort William, was appointed Chief of the Dacca factory in 1749 and died at Dacca of fever in 1755.

7. Deepchund's deposit (p. 15)—See page 27 of the Correspondence. From the letter of the Court of Directors to the Fort William Council, 21 January 1755, para. 123, it is seen that Cole obtained a decree to have the deposit paid to him with interest and costs. On appeal the King in Council reversed it as to interest and costs. Cole, however, died and his executor "renounced the execution of his will", and there was no one before the Court to represent his interests. The Court of Directors indicate here the procedure that should be followed to ensure the payment of the deposit to Deepchund, the ultimate claimant.

8. Hookumbeg (p. 15)—Hakim Beg. He was one of the revenue officers of Sirajud-Daulah and had frequent quarrels with the British in connection with the collection of customs. Hill, *Bengal in 1756-57*, vol. I, p. lvii.

9. Pearks (p. 21)—Paul Richard Pearkes joined the E. I. Company's service on 30 August 1740, and was appointed a member of the Council at Fort William on 4 August 1755. He became Commissary on 29 January 1757, and Chief of the Patna factory when Mir Jafar became Nawab. Late in 1757 he again became a member of the Fort William Council. In March 1758 he was temporarily appointed Chief of the Dacca factory, and in May resumed his membership of the Council. In November 1758 he was appointed Collector of Consulage and Registrar of *Dastaks*. The same year he was charged with fraud in connection with a contract for the supply of saltpetre while he was at Patna and was suspended from the Company's service.

10. William McGwire (p. 23)—Served on the Bengal establishment as Collector of Consulage, Registrar of *Dastaks*, and Sub-Accountant. In 1758 he accompanied Col. Forde as the Pay Master of his troops in his expedition to the Northern Circars, and was wounded in the battle of Conore. He was later Chief of Lakshmipur Factory, Import Warehouse Keeper, member of the Fort William Council and the Select Committee.

11. Baillie (p. 24)—William Baillie entered the E. I. Company's service on 3 September 1745. In 1756 he was Chief of the Jagdea factory in Noakhali. He was Military Storekeeper when Sirajud-Daulah attacked Calcutta.

12. Frankland (p. 24)—William Frankland joined the Company's service on 30 August 1740. He was a member of the Council at Fort William at the time Calcutta was attacked by Sirajud-Daulah and was one of those who

seized the earliest opportunity to desert the fort. After the recovery of Calcutta he served the Company as *Bakhshi* or Civil Paymaster. He was made President of a committee appointed in 1757 to settle details for establishing a mint at Calcutta. He became a member of the Fort William Council in 1757, and subsequently Export Warehousekeeper. He sailed for Europe in 1759.

13. **Dumbleton** (p. 24)—Attorney. It is not clear if he is the same as William Dumbleton who was acting as the Registrar of the Mayor's Court at the time.

14. **Amyatt** (p. 25)—Peter Amyatt joined the Company's service on 2 August 1743. He was Assistant in the Export Warehouse in 1756, Collector of Consulage and Registrar of *Dastaks* in January 1757 and succeeded Pearkes as Chief of the Patna factory the same year. He was killed near Cossimbazar in 1763 during the troubles with Mir Qasim.

15. **Boddam** (p. 25)—Thomas Boddam joined the Company's service on 3 August 1743. He was President of the Balaramgarhi and Balasore factories in 1757. He was a member of the Committee formed to settle the details of a mint to be established at Calcutta. In 1758 he was Chief of the Hijili factory, and late that year became Sea Custom Master.

16. **Coja Wazeed** (p. 27)—Khvajah Wajid, an Armenian merchant of Hooghly and Chandernagore, was known as *fakhr-ut-tujar*, chief of the merchants. He acted as the Nawab's agent with the Europeans. The British refugees at Falta had appealed to him to intercede for them with the Nawab. He was a friend of the French, but after the recovery of Calcutta by the English he sided with the latter out of fear, and also betrayed to them the Nawab's correspondence with the French. He held the monopoly of saltpetre in Bihar under Mir Jafar till it was granted to the Company in 1758.

No. 4—3 August 1757.

1. **Admiral Wattson** (p. 39)—Admiral Charles Watson was Commander in Chief in the East Indies, 1754-57. He defeated Tulaji Angria, the Maratha pirate, in 1756, and took an active part in the war with Sirajud-Daulah. His signature was fraudulently appended to the fictitious engagement with Omichand with the knowledge of Clive.

2. **Major James Killpatrick** (p. 39)—He belonged to the Madras establishment. He arrived at Falta with a small force in July 1756, and became a member of the Council. He served under Clive in several engagements including the battle of Plassey. He was made a member of the Rotation Government and participated in the discussions of the Select Committee when military affairs were discussed. He remained a member of the Council till his death on 16 October 1757.

3. **Charles Manningham** (p. 39)—He joined the Company's service on 26 May 1737, and was a member of the Council and of the Select Committee at Fort William in 1756. When Calcutta was besieged by Sirajud-Daulah he fled at the opportunity.

4. Richard Becher (p. 39)—He joined the service of the Company on 2 August 1743. He was Chief of the factory at Dacca at the time of the capture of Calcutta by Sirajud-Daulah. He later served as Import Warehousekeeper and member of the Fort William Council and the Select Committee.

5. Matthew Collett (p. 39)—He was a member of the Council of the factory at Cossimbazar when the place was attacked by Sirajud-Daulah in 1756. He was appointed Naval Storekeeper on 29 January 1757. He was later a member of the Rotation Government and of the Board. He returned to Europe about the end of 1758.

6. William Mackett (p. 39)—He came to India on 15 September 1741 and was Military Storekeeper and member of the Council at Fort William during the period. He returned to Europe in 1759.

7. Roger Drake Junr. (p. 40)—Roger Drake arrived in Bengal in May 1737. He was President of the Council and Governor of Fort William from 1752-58. When Sirajud-Daulah attacked Calcutta he escaped in panic, leaving the garrison to its fate.

8. Lally (p. 42)—Comte de Thomas Arthur Lally (also Baron de Tollendal) was Governor General and Commander in Chief of French India, 1758-61. After scoring some initial successes, he was decisively defeated at Wandiwash on 22 January 1760 by Colonel Eyre Coote. He was then besieged by Coote at Pondicherry and forced to capitulate on 14 January 1761. On his return to France from captivity, he was tried on a charge of having betrayed the interests of the King and executed on 9 May 1766.

9. Capt. Minchin (p. 42)—Captain George Minchin was Commander of the garrison at Fort William when the fort was invested by Sirajud-Daulah. He behaved disgracefully during the siege and was therefore dismissed by the Court of Directors on 27 July 1757.

No. 6—11 November 1757.

1. The taking of Chandernagore (p. 49)—Chandernagore surrendered to Clive on 23 March 1757.

2. Admiral Pocock (p. 51)—Sir George Pocock was second in command to Admiral Watson, Commander in Chief in the East Indies, and he succeeded him to the office in 1757. He relieved Madras when it was besieged by Lally in December 1758, and also fought an indecisive action with D'Ache, Commander of a French squadron, in September 1759. He returned to England in 1760.

3. Richard Court (p. 53)—He joined the Company's service on 3 August 1743. He was Sub-Accountant in 1756-57 and subsequently Collector of Customs and Registrar of *Dastaks*. He was appointed a member of the Fort William Council by an order of the Court dated 11 November 1757, but was drowned on 3 May 1758 before the receipt of the order at Calcutta.

4. **William Ellis** (p. 54)—He joined the E. I. Company's service on 16 July 1749. He was an Assistant in the Military Storekeeper's office in 1756, member of the Fort William Council in 1759, and later Chief of the Patna factory. He was killed along with others by Mir Qasim in 1763.

5. **John Cartier** (p. 54)—He joined the E. I. Company's service in 1750. He was a factor and an assistant at Dacca in 1756, a volunteer under Clive in 1757, Chief of the Dacca factory in 1761, second in Council at Calcutta in 1767, and Governor of Fort William from 1769-72.

No. 7—3 March 1758.

1. **Ballasore** (p. 61)—This English settlement in Orissa dates from 1633. Playdell, Johnstone and Burdet were Chiefs of this factory in 1757, 1758 and 1759 respectively.

2. **Patna** (p. 62)—In 1620 a factory had been established here to procure local piece-goods and raw silk. During the turmoil in Bengal in 1756-57 it remained closed. It was re-started in August 1757, and became the centre of saltpetre trade. During the period 1757-59, Amyatt and Pearkes held the Chiefship of the factory.

3. **Hughly** (p. 62)—The English had their factory at Hooghly and the Dutch at Chinsura. Both the places now form part of the town of Chinsura.

4. **The Great Mogul** (p. 63)—The Emperor at the time was Muhammad Alamgir II (1754-59).

5. **Roy Runget** (p. 65)—Ranjit Rai was the agent of Jagat Seth. He negotiated the treaty of 9 February 1757 between Sirajud-Daulah and the English.

6. **Bulramgurry** (p. 66)—Balaramgarhi is situated near Balasore in Orissa, and the Company had a factory there. During the occupation of Calcutta by Sirajud-Daulah, it became the seat of the Presidency.

7. **Captain John Caillaud** (p. 69)—Captain Caillaud took service with the Company in 1752, and distinguished himself in the war against the French in South India. He was appointed to the chief military command in Bengal in 1759.

8. **Quarter Sessions** (p. 72)—The Courts of Quarter Sessions were established in Madras, Bombay and Calcutta by the Royal Charters of 1726 and 1753. According to the Royal Charter of 24 September 1726, the "Governor and 5 Senior Council might hold Quarter Sessions, for the trial of all offences, except high treason". According to the Royal Charter of 8 January 1753, the entire Council or any three or more of them, including the President, or in his absence the senior member then residing at Fort William, constituted the Court.—D. N. Banerjee, *Early Administrative System of the East India Company in Bengal*, vol. I, pp. 274, 547 *et seq.*

9. **Grand Juries** (p. 72)—Trial by jury was introduced in the Presidency towns of Madras, Bombay and Calcutta by the Charter of 1726.

10. **Mayor's Court** (p. 72)—The Royal Charter of 1726 authorized the East India Company to erect a Mayor's Court at Madras, Bombay and Calcutta. Its constitution was revised by the Charter of 1753. The Mayor's Court was authorized to try, hear and determine all civil suits, actions and pleas. The Court, however, did not have any jurisdiction over "such suits or actions between the Indians unless the parties themselves submitted the same to the determination of the Mayor's Court".

11. **Playdell** (p. 85)—Charles Stafford Playdell joined the Company's service on 25 November 1744. He was Sub-Accountant in 1756, second in Council at the Balaramgarhi factory in 1757, and the Chief of the Lakshmipur factory in 1758. He was appointed member of the Fort William Council on 7 December 1758, and later became Land Custom Master.

No. 8—8 March 1758.

1. **Cruttenden** (p. 100)—Edward Holden Cruttenden was Superintendent of Marine until 28 August 1755 when he was dismissed from the Company's service. He was, however, restored after the siege of Calcutta in 1757.

No. 16—23 November 1759.

1. **118th paragraph** (p. 169)—It should be 119th paragraph.

2. **Henry Vansittart** (p. 170)—He joined as a writer in the Madras service in 1745 and rose to be a member of Council in 1759. He succeeded Clive as Governor of Bengal on 27 July 1760.

No. 17—7 December 1759.

1. **29 January 1759** (p. 170)—Regarding the correctness of the date, see note entitled *25 January 1759* at p. 490.

LETTERS TO COURT

No. 4—30 January 1757.

1. **Rajabullub** (p. 182)—Rajballabh succeeded Husain Quli Khan as *Diwan* to Nawazish Muhammad Khan, Deputy Nawab of Dacca. After the death of his master, he wielded great influence over his widow Ghasita Begam.

2. **Newagees Mahomed Cawn** (p. 182)—Nawazish Muhammad Khan was the eldest son of Haji Ahmed, elder brother of Ali Verdi Khan. He married Ghasita Begam, the eldest daughter of Ali Verdi Khan. He died in 1755 and is said to have been poisoned.

3. Ali Verdi Khan (p. 182)—Ali Verdi Khan was a Turkoman by birth. He rose in revolt against his master Sarfaraz Khan and defeated and killed him in 1740 at Gheria. He was the Nawab of Bengal till he died on 10 April 1756. He was succeeded by Sirajud-Daulah.

4. Newaungees Mahmud Cawn's Begum (p. 183)—Ghasita Begam.

5. Meir Nussor Ally (p. 183)—Mir Nazar Ali was a lover of Ghasita Begam, the widow of Nawab Nawazish Muhammad Khan. He was banished from Bengal by Sirajud-Daulah.

6. Rajabullub's son (p. 183)—Krishnadas.

7. Jaggernaut (p. 183)—Jagannath, temple at Puri, Orissa, is a famous centre of pilgrimage.

8. Gayree (p. 184)—Ghereah or Gheriah, better known as Vijayadurg, on the west coast was the seat of the Angrias who controlled the Maratha Navy. It was captured by Admiral Watson and Colonel Clive in 1756.

9. Angria (p. 184)—Tulaji Angria, Chief of the Maratha Navy. Angrias are known in English records mostly for their piratical activities. The Peshwa entered into an alliance with the English to secure the assistance of the Bombay Navy to curb the authority of Angria. Admiral Watson and Clive, who were deputed to assist the Peshwa, destroyed Angria's Navy and captured Vijayadurg in February 1756.

10. Jungaraul (p. 186)—Probably Sankrail, situated on the Hooghly in Howrah District, Bengal. It is referred to as Sangral in Rennell's *Atlas* (Plates VII and XIX).

No. 5—31 January 1757.

1. Bisdorn (p. 190)—Adrian Bisdorn was Director of the Dutch settlement at Chinsura.

2. Consulage (p. 192)—Duty on goods exported to foreign ports or on coins minted for purposes of exportation. Collectors of Consulage: William Frankland (1752); Peter Amyatt (1757); Paul Richard Pearkes (1758).

3. Courts of Oyer and Terminer, (p. 192)—They were criminal courts with jurisdiction over Indians as well as Europeans. According to the Royal Charters of 1726 and 1753, the President and Council at Fort William, or any three or more of them, were to hold 'Quarter Sessions' and be a Court of Record in the nature of a Court of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery.

No. 6—1 February 1757.

1. Monsr. Bussy (p. 196)—Charles Joseph Patissier Bussy, Marquis de Castelnau, was a French general, well known for the part he played in the Carnatic Wars. He wielded at this time great influence at the Nizam's Court.

2. Monsr. Law (p. 196)—Jean Law, Baron de Lauriston, was English by birth. He became Chief of the French factory at Cossimbazar in 1756,

and wielded great influence at the Court of Sirajud-Daulah. On the fall of Chandernagore he left for Patna. When Major Coote marched into Bihar he sought refuge with the Raja of Benares. He accompanied Shahzada Ali Gauhar in 1759 when he invaded Bihar, and continued to be a thorn in the English side till 1762, when he surrendered and left for France.

No. 8—22 February 1757.

1. Coja Patrus (p. 199)—Khwajah Petrus, an Armenian, was employed as a confidential agent by Sirajud-Daulah for negotiating with the English. He was the brother of Gregory or Gurgin Khan who became Mir Qasim's general. He died in 1782.

2. Morattos Ditch (p. 200)—A ditch dug by the English in Calcutta in 1743-44 as a protection against the periodical raids of the Marathas.

No. 15—31 March 1757.

1. The 12th (p. 216)—The date given here is as in *Copies of records obtained from the India Office, 1757*, and *Public General Letters to Court, 1755-57*, vol. IV. Hill's *Bengal in 1756-57*, vol. II (1905), p. 306, gives the date as 11th.

2. The 13th (p. 216)—*Ibid.* Hill gives the date as 12th.

No. 17—10 April 1757.

1. Manickchand (p. 219)—Manickchand, former *Diwan* of the Raja of Burdwan, was appointed Governor of Calcutta after its capture by Sirajud-Daulah. He negotiated with the British at Falta.

2. Pigot (p. 219)—Starting as Chief at Vizagapatam George Pigot was Governor of Fort St. George from 1755 to 1763. He became a Baron in 1764.

3. Juggutscat (p. 220)—Jagat Seth was the hereditary family title of the senior partner of the great banking house of the Seths of Murshidabad. The title was conferred originally by the Mughal Emperor Farrukhsiyar on Fatch Chand, the founder of the family. The Jagat Seths played a conspicuous role in the politics of Bengal in the time of Ali Verdi Khan, Sirajud-Daulah and Mir Jafar.

4. Verelst (p. 220)—Harry Verelst came to Bengal in the service of the Company in 1749. He was taken prisoner by Nawab Sirajud-Daulah's forces in 1756 and released after the battle of Plassey. He was Chief at Lakshmipur in 1757, member of the Bengal Council in 1763 and Governor of Bengal from 1767-69. He is the author of the *Rise, Progress and Present State of the English Government in Bengal*.

No. 18—16 April 1757.

1. Rajhaam (p. 223)—Hill's *Bengal in 1756-57*, vol. II (1905), p. 342, has "Afghans".

No. 20—14 July 1757.

1. In this part (p. 226)—Copies of records obtained from the India Office, 1757, and Hill's *Bengal in 1756-57* have "in his pay".

2. Within (p. 226)—"In their" in *ibid*.

3. Suffras Cawn (p. 226)—Sarfaraz Khan, Nawab of Bengal (1739-40), was defeated and killed by Ali Verdi Khan in 1740 at Gheria.

4. Mirza Omar Beg (p. 227)—He was a trusted and confidential officer of Mir Jafar and was *Faujdar* of Hooghly. He was on friendly terms with the English.

5. Lutter Cawn (p. 228)—Yar Latif Khan or Khudadad Khan Latif was one of Sirajud-Daulah's officers. He had the support of the Seths and Omichand and was for a time considered as a possible successor to Sirajud-Daulah during the intrigues that took place for the latter's overthrow.

No. 21—26 July 1757.

1. Roydulub (p. 231)—Maharaja Rai Durlabh or Durlabhram was the son of Raja Janki Ram, Chief Minister of Ali Verdi Khan. He acted as *Diwan* both under Ali Verdi Khan and Sirajud-Daulah. He was an active participant in the overthrow of Sirajud-Daulah. After the revolution he was appointed *Diwan* by Mir Jafar, but was soon dismissed and replaced by Rajballabh.

No. 22—6 August 1757.

1. Ramnarain (p. 234)—Ramnarayan was the Deputy Governor of Bihar under Ali Verdi Khan and Sirajud-Daulah. Mir Jafar wanted to remove him but an accommodation was effected and he gave proof of his loyalty to the Nawab by giving battle to Shahzada Ali Gauhar in December 1759. Mir Qasim, who became Nawab in 1760, stripped him of all power, and finally had him drowned in 1763.

2. Nanna of the Marottoes (p. 235)—Balaji Baji Rao, also known as Nana Sahib, was the Peshwa from 1740 to 1761.

3. Salabud Jung (p. 235)—Salabat Jang, son of Nizamul-Mulk (Asaf Jah), succeeded his brother Muzaffar Jang as Subahdar of the Deccan on the latter's murder in 1752. He granted the revenues of the Northern Circars to Bussy for the maintenance of a body of French troops in his service. Eventually he was deposed by his brother Nizam Ali, who imprisoned him at Bidar, where he died.

4. Mauphos Cawn (p. 236)—Mahfuz Ali Khan was the eldest son of Anwarud-Din Khan, and a brother of Muhammad Ali Khan. In December 1746 he was sent by his father with an army to capture Madras from the French, but was defeated and routed by Paradis near Madras; joined his brother Muhammad Ali at Fort St. David in 1754 and was appointed Governor of Madura and Tinnevely, but in 1755 his forces were defeated

and he lost two companies of Company's soldiers. So the English took the management out of his hands in 1756.

5. **Nazabulla Cawn** (p. 236)—Najibullah Khan was the half-brother of Muhammad Ali Khan of Arcot.

6. **Monsr. Renault** (p. 237)—Chief of the French settlement of Chandernagore in 1757, when the place was taken by the English.

7. **Echapore** (p. 238)—Probably Ichchapuram, town in Ganjam District, Madras.

No. 29—23 December 1757.

1. **Rajah Ram** (p. 257)—Rajaram Singh was the Governor of Midnapore and Chief of Nawab Sirajud-Daulah's spies. He was antagonistic to the English and acted as messenger between Sirajud-Daulah and Bussy. He was a friend of Durlabhram.

2. **Oudul Singh** (p. 257)—Achal Singh was *Diwan* of Shaukat Jang. In 1757 he supported the cause of Hazir Ali Khan who set himself up as the Nawab of Purnea after the accession of Mir Jafar. But Hazir Ali was defeated by Qadam Husain Khan, to whom Achal Singh also surrendered. *Seir Mutaqherin*, vol. II, pp. 253-56.

3. **Meer Azisse** (p. 257)—The reference is perhaps to Mir Abdul Aziz, who was attached to Raja Durlabhram, Governor of Orissa under Ali Verdi Khan.

4. **Coddum Hussan Cawn** (p. 257)—Qadam Husain Khan, a close friend and fellow voluptuary of Mir Jafar, was extremely cruel, passionate and unscrupulous. He was appointed Governor of Purnea in order to crush Hazir Ali Khan and his minister Achal Singh. He succeeded in this task and took possession of Purnea. *Seir Mutaqherin*, vol. II, pp. 253-56.

5. **Surajah Dolaw's brother** (p. 258)—Mirza Mehdi, younger brother of Sirajud-Daulah. After his accession Mir Jafar kept him under close confinement, and later had him murdered to remove a possible claimant to the throne. *Seir Mutaqherin*, vol. II, p. 251.

6. **The Vizier** (p. 258)—Ghaziud-Din Khan, also known by the title of Imadul-Mulk, was the *Vazir* of Emperor Alamgir II (1754-59).

7. **Najib Cawn** (p. 258)—Najibud-Daulah, an upstart Rohilla, was one of the retainers of *Vazir* Imadul-Mulk. After he strengthened his position he openly flouted the authority of the *Vazir* and joined Abdali against him. He was the virtual dictator of Delhi from 1761-70.

8. **Nizam Ally Cawn** (p. 259)—Nizam Ali Khan was the brother of Salabat Jang and the son of Nizamul-Mulk (Asaf Jah). He was appointed Governor of Berar and later Prime Minister with full administrative authority by Salabat Jang. But he proved most ungrateful and disloyal. He imprisoned Salabat Jang and usurped the Subahdari of the Deccan, which he held from 1761 to 1803.

9. Monsr. Courtin (p. 259)—Chief of the French factory at Dacca in 1756. He surrendered to the English at Murshidabad in March 1758, and was allowed to go to Chandernagore without molestation.

No. 31—10 January 1758.

1. Aridge Duckle Court (p. 282)—*Arzi Dakhil Court*, a Court for hearing and determining all disputes involving property.

No. 32—13 January 1758.

1. 13 January 1758 (p. 298)—Of the two copies of the letters that are available, one bears the date 10 January and the other 13 January, 1758. While referring to letters sent earlier, the letter from the Select Committee to the Secret Committee dated 2 March 1758, para. 1, gives the date 13 January 1758.

2. Lieutenant Colonel Ford (p. 300)—Colonel Francis Forde originally belonged to the 39th Regiment and served in Southern India till 1758 when he joined the Company's army in Bengal as second to Clive. He was given the local rank of lieutenant colonel and was sent by Clive in October 1758 to Vizagapatam. He defeated the French General Marquis de Conflans at Condore in December 1758 and took Rajahmundry and Masulipatam in April 1759. He also defeated the Dutch at Chinsura. He returned to England with Clive.

No. 34—21 January 1758.

1. 21 January 1758 (p. 301)—The date given here is as in the Mss. But the reference to a *General Letter* dated 23 January 1758 appearing in *Letter from Court* dated 23 March 1759, para. 2, appears to be to this letter. Since both the letters in question are copies and not originals, the date of the letter cannot be determined with certainty.

No. 36—27 February 1758.

1. 27 February 1758 (p. 307)—The date given here is as in the Mss. But the reference to a *General Letter* dated 28 February 1758 appearing in *Letter from Court* dated 23 March 1759, para. 2, appears to be to this letter. Since both the letters in question are copies and not originals, the date of the letter cannot be determined with certainty.

2. Col. Adlercron's Regiment (p. 312)—The 39th Infantry Regiment was commanded by Col. Adlercron. It left England in March 1754. Colonels Coote, Forde and Carnac had their commissions in this regiment.

No. 39—26 August 1758.

1. 26 August 1758 (p. 319)—This letter is undated, but according to *Letter from Court*, 1 April 1760, para. 2, and *Letter to Court*, 10 November 1758, para. 1, it appears to have been written on 26 August 1758.

No. 41—10 November 1758.

1. 10 November 1758 (p. 326)—Of the two copies of the letters that are available one bears the date 10 November, and the other 11 November 1758. The latter date gets support from *Select Committee letter to Secret Committee* dated 31 December 1758, para. 2, and the former date from *Letter from Court* dated 23 November 1759, para. 3. Since all the letters in question are copies, the date of the letter cannot be determined with certainty.

2. Monsr. Conflans (p. 327)—Marquis de Conflans succeeded Bussy to the command of the French troops in the Northern Circars in 1758. He was defeated by Col. Forde at Condore in December 1758. He surrendered along with over 400 prisoners to the English on 7 April 1759, when the town of Masulipatam was stormed.

No. 43—31 December 1758.

1. Nundacomar (p. 343)—Nandakumar was *Faujdar* of Hooghly in 1756, then Mir Jafar's Prime Minister, and later on *Diwan* of his son Nawab Najmud-Daulah. On 19 August 1758 he was appointed *Tehsildar* on behalf of the Company to realize its share of the revenue from the Rajas of Burdwan and Nadia, but was dismissed from the office due to friction with Vansittart. In 1775 he was tried on a charge of forgery and executed. His son Raja Gurudas inherited his fabulous wealth.

2-3. 5-2 (p. 361)—5 *sicca* rupees 2 annas. See para. 161 of the letter.

No. 44—31 December 1758.

1. 11th of November (p. 390)—See note above entitled 10 November 1758.

2. Sitaub Roy (p. 393)—Raja Shitab Rai was a Kayasth of Delhi. Starting life as a clerk there he rose high in office by dint of his abilities. Through the influence of his friends he secured patents for the offices of Imperial *Diwan* at Azimabad (Patna), and the Governor of the fortress of Rohtas. He then went to Patna and got himself installed in these offices with the help of Clive. He became a friend of the English, and held the post of *Naib Diwan* of Bihar under the Company. He was tried on a charge of embezzlement in 1772, but honourably acquitted. The shock was however too much for him and he died in 1773.

No. 46—25 January 1759.

1. 25 January 1759 (p. 395)—The date given here is as in the Mss. But from *Letters from Court* of 7 December 1759, para. 1, and 1 April 1760, para. 2, it appears to be of 29 January 1759. All the three letters in question being copies and not originals, the date cannot, however, be determined with certainty.

No. 47—8 February 1759.

1. 5-2 (p. 401)—5 *sicca* rupees 2 annas. The reading is based on *Letter to Court*, 31 December 1758, para. 161.

2-4. 5s. 2d., 3s. 4d., and 5s. 2d., (p. 402)—The reference to shillings and pence is incorrect. It should be rupees and annas according to *ibid*.

No. 48—8 February 1759.

1. 8 February 1759 (p. 411)—The Mss. gives the month and year and not the date. From the Select Committee to Secret Committee letter dated 19 March 1759, para. 1, the date of the letter appears to be 8 February, 1759.

No. 51—12 March 1759.

1. The Mogul's son (p. 419)—Prince Ali Gauhar. After he became Emperor he was known as Shah Alam II (1728-1806).

2. Chuta Nabob (p. 420)—Otherwise known as Miran, he was a son of Mir Jafar. He was cruel, unscrupulous and vindictive. During the expedition against the *Shahzadah* in 1760 he was struck by lightning and killed.

3. Rajah Gudge Puttee Raage Bahadre (p. 422)—Raja Gaja Pati Raye Bahadur Anand of Rajahmundry. After the cession of the Northern Circars to the French in 1753, Rajahmundry, on account of its central position, was chosen by Bussy as his headquarters in preference to Masulipatam. The Raja, however, broke away from the French in 1758 and sought the help of the English, who defeated the French under Conflans at Condore.

4. Rajah Bulwunt Sing (p. 426)—Balwant Singh was the Raja of Benares from 1739-70. He helped Shah Alam II in his expedition against Bihar.

No. 53—19 March 1759.

1. Cossim Ally Cawn (p. 429)—Nawab Mir Qasim was the son-in-law of Mir Jafar and Nawab of Bengal from 1760-63.

No. 57—29 December 1759.

1. Mr. Richard Wilder (p. 440)—He was a silk expert and had been sent out in 1757 by the Court of Directors at the instance of the silk weavers of England to improve the quality of raw silk and its winding in Bengal. He was stationed at Cossimbazar, and invented a highly useful machine which considerably improved the winding of raw silk.

2. Lieut. Colonel Eyre Coote (p. 448)—He was with the 39th Regiment when it recaptured Calcutta from Sirajud-Daulah, and was also present at the fall of Chandernagore and the victory of Plassey. He became lieutenant colonel in January 1759 and commanded the troops at Madras. He defeated the French at Wandiwash on 22 January 1760 and took Arcot.

3. Kissendass (p. 452)—Krishnadas was the son of Raja Rajballabh who was the *Diwan* of Nawazish Muhammad Khan, Deputy Governor of Dacca. The *Diwan*, anticipating trouble with Sirajud-Daulah, sent Krishnadas with his family and treasure to Calcutta on the pretext of a pilgrimage to Puri.

4. **Mr. Henry Lushington** (p. 453)—Arrived in India on 4 August 1755. He was Assistant in the Export Warehouse during 1756-57. He is said to have forged Admiral Watson's signature to the treaty that was drawn up to deceive Omichand. He was killed in 1763 during the troubles with Mir Qasim.

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